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Japan

Public Works Rules Eased in Response to U.S.

OW2412041793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313 GMT
24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The Construction Ministry and the Home Affairs Ministry on Friday completed guidelines for introducing an open bidding system for large-scale public works projects in local governments and big cities. The guidelines, based on a report by a government advisory panel submitted earlier in the week, were presented to a morning cabinet meeting by Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi and Home Affairs Minister Kanju Sato.

Local governments also received notification about the guidelines on Friday.

The introduction of an open bidding system comes in response to U.S. demands at ongoing Japan-U.S. construction negotiations. The United States says the present Japanese system, under which only designated contractors are allowed to participate in bidding for most public works projects, is a major obstacle for foreign firms that want to do business here.

The new system, however, still has some conditions, such as technology requirements which must be met by prospective bidders.

Detailed requirements will be determined in line with those applied to public works sponsored by the central government and public corporations, to be decided in January.

Tokyo Defends Efforts on Cellular Phone Market

OW2412034493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT
24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan's telecommunications minister Friday [24 December] defended Japan's efforts to open its cellular phone market to foreign companies. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Takenori Kanzaki told a press conference that Japan has been handling the issue "sincerely" according to a 1989 trade agreement between Tokyo and Washington.

Kanzaki's remarks came in response to the charges by some U.S. firms that they have been locked out of the Japanese cellular telephone market in the Tokyo and Nagoya areas. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said Thursday the U.S. Government is probing the charges, adding that the White House will decide by February 15 whether to retaliate against Japan if the charges prove well founded.

Kantor noted that Japan promised in the 1989 agreement to guarantee U.S. firms access to the Japanese cellular phone market.

Kanzaki said he will continue to explain, to the U.S., Japan's efforts in the field, in order to gain its understanding.

Scrapping U.S. Public Works Accord Studied

OW2712000393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2337 GMT
26 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Japan will propose scrapping an agreement with the United States to open major public works projects to U.S. firms in return for introducing an open bidding system which does not discriminate against foreign contractors, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Monday [27 December].

The major economic daily said the Japanese Government will put the proposal on the table during bilateral construction trade talks in early January in time for the January 20 deadline for threatened U.S. sanctions. Under the Japanese plan, the 1988 arrangement to establish open tenders to U.S. firms for 40 projects will be abandoned gradually.

In exchange, Japan will introduce an open bidding system to large-scale public works projects each worth 4.5 million special drawing rights (SDRs) or more if they are central government-sponsored and worth 15 million SDRs or more if they are ordered by local governments or public corporations.

The Japanese proposal also requires foreign contractors willing to bid for Japanese public works to undergo technological and other examinations.

Also planned is a system whereby foreigners can lodge complaints about the Japanese construction market with the economic planning agency, the daily said.

PRC Aid Programs To Be Shortened to 3 Years

OW2412110893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT
24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan plans to shorten the duration of its aid programs for China from the current five or six years to three years starting in fiscal 1996, government sources said Friday [24 December]. Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will notify China of the decision when he visits Beijing January 8 and 9, the sources said.

Japan has extended yen-denominated loans to China under five- or six-year programs since fiscal 1979, making China the only yen-loan recipient under a program of more than one year.

Japan has been asking China to agree to alter the current duration of the yen-loan program to one year in line with other yen-loan recipients, but Beijing has been reluctant to accept a single-year program because it follows multiyear economic planning, the sources said.

Under the current 1990-95 loan program, Tokyo is extending 528.2 billion yen to finance 42 Chinese

projects. Japan hopes China will accept a single-year loan program starting in fiscal 1999 after a three-year aid program ends in fiscal 1998, the sources said.

During his stay in Beijing, Hata will tell Chinese officials that Tokyo would like to extend yen loans mainly for environment-related projects to prevent air pollution and acid rain, they said.

Hata Plans To Discuss DPRK on PRC Visit

OW2412031693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will visit China from January 8 to 9 to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [24 December]. Hata will also hold talks with other Chinese leaders during his stay in Beijing, the ministry said.

Hata and Qian have met three times this year. They met in New York in late September and again in November when they attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

High on the agenda for talks between the two foreign ministers is the problem involving North Korea's alleged development of nuclear weapons, ministry sources said.

Hata is the first Japanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister under the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to visit China.

Mission Plans To Study Aid to Former Yugoslavia

OW2412105193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—A Japanese fact-finding mission will go to former Yugoslavia on January 7 to study possible contributions by Japan there, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday [24 December]. The team is to be headed by Shunji Yanai, director general of the ministry's Foreign Policy Bureau, who played a key role in realizing Japan's legislation on peacekeeping cooperation which enabled the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to join UN peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, spokesman Terusuke Terada said.

The mission, to consist of some eight to nine Foreign Ministry officials, will visit for 10 days places such as the Croatian capital of Zagreb, the besieged Bosnian capital of Sarajevo and the Serbian capital of Belgrade, Terada said.

The aim of the mission is to simply "grasp the local conditions to seek effective ways to carry out Japan's policy toward former Yugoslavia," he said, denying that it will pave the way for sending SDF troops there. It will also examine what to do with the Japanese Embassy in Belgrade, where the ambassador is absent in line with UN sanctions against Serbia.

The members of the Japanese mission are to meet officials of the United Nations and international organizations as well as officials of other nations, Terada said.

Rice Harvest Down 26 Percent From Year Before

OW2412025693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0221 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—This year's rice harvest plunged 26 percent from a year earlier to 7,811,000 tons primarily from the unusually wet and cool summer, Japan's farm minister said Friday.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Eijiro Hata reported to a morning cabinet meeting that the rice-harvest index for 1993 was an "extremely poor" 74, which means that the harvest was 74 percent of the yearly average. A preliminary report in mid-October put the index at 75.

The worst postwar harvest has already forced the government to buy foreign-grown rice on an emergency basis for the first time since 1984. As much as 2.2 million tons of foreign rice are estimated to be needed by the next autumn to cover the nation's annual consumption of 10 million tons.

The farm minister reported that crop damage amounted to 3,834,000 tons, including 3,031,000 tons damaged by the unusual weather.

Northern Japan was hit hardest, with the harvest index for northernmost Hokkaido at 40 and that for the Tohoku region at 56. Some areas, including Tokachi in Hokkaido, reported no harvests.

Despite a series of typhoons in Japan, two regions enjoyed relatively good harvests, with the Kinki area posting an index of 92 and Tokai at 91. But western Japan suffered severe typhoon damage with crops at 15 to 24 percent less than the average year.

First Emergency Rice Import Meeting Held

OW2412050093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The government held the first meeting of a recently established special task force Friday to discuss the nation's agricultural policy, following the acceptance of a partial opening of Japan's rice market under the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks under GATT, government officials said. Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who chairs the task force, said those attending should make every effort to compile detailed and effective policy steps, so as to prepare the best possible package of domestic farm measures, the officials said.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Eijiro Hata explained briefly the list of commitments submitted by Japan to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

(GATT) and sought the cooperation of the other cabinet members attending the meeting in drawing up the measures.

In the Uruguay Round of trade talks, Japan accepted a GATT farm trade pact which included the requirement that minimum access will be allowed for rice imports during a six-year moratorium period, prior to the conversion of import restrictions into tariffs. The agreement also stipulated the tariffication of dairy products and a reduction in the tariffs on beef imports.

Concerns are growing that some farmers and local economies may be hit hard by the liberalization moves. The special task force is expected to fashion a wide range of measures designed to enhance the structure of farm production and to support farming incomes, so as to, in Hosokawa's words, "secure an environment in which farmers can feel assured about continuing production."

Hata later told a press conference that these measures will likely be compiled by the time of the signing ceremony for the Uruguay Round agreement, scheduled for next April.

New Defense Program Planned by End of 1994

*OW2612110093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT
26 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The Defense Agency plans to draft the framework of a new national defense program by the end of next year in the wake of the end of the Cold War, Defense Agency sources said Sunday [26 December].

Defense Agency Chief Kazuo Aichi will set up a private advisory panel of defense experts early next year to study a new national defense program, they said. The new defense policy will be reflected in defense spending for fiscal 1995, the sources said.

The government had originally set a March 1995 timetable for reviewing the 1976 national defense program outline, which spells out Japan's defense initiative and formation of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF).

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa proposed in late October an early revision of the outline, saying Japan needs to reconsider "meaningful defense" in the post-Cold War era.

Hosokawa, the first prime minister from outside the Liberal Democratic Party in 38 years, also said that Japan should take the initiative on global disarmament.

The national defense program outline calls for maintaining security arrangements with the United States to defend Japan against a large-scale invasion while building an SDF that can repel limited-scale aggression on its own.

Among issues to be reviewed are a reduction in the fixed number of Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) personnel, clarification of SDF duties in U.N. peacekeeping operations, and a proposal by the United States to jointly develop an air defense system capable of intercepting North Korean missiles, known as the Theater Missile Defense System.

The current outline sets the maximum number of GSDF personnel at 180,000, although the present number is around 151,000.

Ground Self-Defense Forces Cut Examined

*OW2512010493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0038 GMT
25 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—Japan's Ground Self-Defense Forces (GSDF) will be cut from the present 180,000 troops to less than 150,000 in line with an overall troop reduction and revision of defense planning, a major daily reported Saturday [25 December].

The Defense Agency is currently examining a radical restructuring of the 13 GSDF divisions including their size and has instructed the agency's high-ranking staff to work out a concrete plan, the ASAHI SHIMBUN said, quoting senior Defense Agency officials. The large-scale troop reduction reportedly strongly reflects the will of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who has been urging partners in the coalition government to go along with his ideas.

The government considers the streamlining opportune given the worldwide trend toward cutting military strength and defense expenditures after the end of the cold war, the daily said. In times of tight defense budgets the troop cuts will also help economize on fixed personnel costs and gain more leeway for the purchase of up-to-date military equipment, the ASAHI said.

Hosokawa News Conference on Reform, Economy

*OW2412141193 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0932 GMT 13 December 93*

[News conference by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at his official residence in Tokyo—live]

[Text] My statement will cover two issues: Immediate economic management and economic stimulus measures; and political reform. First of all, I want to touch on economic management and stimulus measures. I am seriously concerned about the current economic conditions, and the government has so far taken every possible measure to boost economy. I want to explain six measures the government will take as economic stimulus measures.

The first is the promotion of deregulation. It may directly lead to the promotion of private sector investment, including the promotion of industry access to new markets, and will have an immediate effect on economic recovery. In addition, the government will promote

deregulation that will give vital and creative power to society. For example, the government will promote such deregulation in such areas as housing, information, and the communications business. To carry this out, by the time compilation of the budget is complete, we are due to establish a headquarters for the promotion of administrative reform. By making 1994 the year of deregulation, I would like to positively come to grips with the issue of promoting deregulation. It is often said that deregulation is effective in the medium to long term. However, I disagree and so, as I said earlier, the government plans to apply deregulation with the emphasis on areas that will produce immediate results.

Second, the government plans to stimulate the economy by working out a third supplementary budget for the fiscal year 1993 and a budget for the fiscal year 1994 that will have a 15-month impact on economy. The emphasis will be on areas that will create the foundation for the development of the economy in the future, including those that improve our living conditions or are connected with research and development activities.

Third, the government plans to take considerable measures to help those concerned with agriculture or small industries which are in a serious condition. At the same time, drastic measures will be taken for industries that require a structural adjustment. As far as agriculture is concerned, the government held a meeting to deal with agricultural issues this morning. I am thinking of promoting measures to nurture future agriculture that will be competitive in an effort to cope with the decision made in the course of the Uruguay Round of trade talks. As for small industries, a law to help small industries carry out restructuring was passed in the previous Diet session. To promote their access to new markets or to make inroads into foreign countries, the government, as I said earlier, will take measures to help industries which have to carry out structural adjustments.

Fourth, the government will implement as soon as possible a total employment assistance program which was worked out recently as a way to strengthen employment conditions. Meanwhile, the government will make an all-out effort to devise measures to promote industrial restructuring—in such industries, for example, as information and communications—by carrying out deregulation measures.

Fifth, to promote effective use of land, the government intends to tackle the issue of devising measures that will increase the liquidity of land and give satisfactory results. I think this measure also concerns reform of the financing system. Concretely speaking, and the ministers of finance, industry, and other concerned ministries have already started studying this measure, the government intends to come to grips with measures as early as possible to effectively increase the liquidity of land.

In the sixth place, there is the issue of tax reform and an income tax cut, which has been seriously discussed by the ruling coalition and the government. In fact there

was the report submitted by the Economic Research Council under Hiraiwa [chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan].

The government plans to announce its measures in this regard by the time the fiscal 1994 budget is compiled. That is all as far as economic issues are concerned.

Next, I would like to discuss the problem of political reform. Needless to say, the political reform issue has been the top priority in Japanese politics since the so-called Recruit scandal. Despite the sincere efforts of both the ruling and opposition parties, we have not yet enacted the political reform bills. And, during this period, two Liberal Democratic Party administrations have been forced to resign for failing to deliver promised political reform.

As we have had to concentrate our efforts on this issue for such a long time, politicians have not been able to fully devote themselves to other important issues. In particular, I feel sorry about the fact that the nation's politics failed to deal swiftly enough with the so-called bubble economy boom and the recession that came in its aftermath.

My primary concern since the inauguration of my administration has been to pave the way for economic measures and other policies directly connected to consumers' livelihood because politicians ought to grapple with this subject as a matter of priority. Second, I felt that we should not spend too much time on the political reform issue. That is why I said the enactment of the political reform bills within this year was the most urgent duty of my cabinet, and have since been trying my best to achieve that goal.

Thanks to public support and the efforts of the Diet, the bills associated with the third attempt at political reform have passed the Lower House for the first time. We have cleared the first difficulty, and the bills are now with the upper house.

However, we have had difficulties in starting deliberations in the upper house, despite the utmost efforts of those concerned, and the upper house Political Reform Committee resumed deliberations only today.

I have never forgotten my pledge to enact the bills within this year, even at the risk of my political career, and I have been trying my best to achieve this objective. However, it has become virtually impossible to enact the bills before the end of this year.

I must frankly apologize to the public because it has become impossible for the political reform bills to be enacted before the end of the year. However, I have reached the conclusion, after thorough consideration, that I must continue to do my duty right now. The reform bills have finally passed the lower house, and the upper house is about to open deliberations on them. In the circumstances, I must not give up now. I think I must continue my efforts until the bills are enacted, and this

will be the best way to fulfill my political responsibility. I hope the public shows an understanding of my determination, and I would like to ask everybody to offer further support for our efforts to enact the political reform bills. Thank you.

Rules Out Lower House Dissolution

*OW2412082093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday [24 December] dismissed growing speculation that he may dissolve the House of Representatives to take the blame for his failure to observe his promise to enact political reform bills by the year-end. "I am not considering a dissolution and the current situation does not allow such a thing," Hosokawa told a meeting of legislators of his Japan New Party.

Such a dissolution would force the ruling coalition to contest a resultant general election at a time when many voters are disgruntled with the current economic slump, political analysts say.

The prime minister renewed his vow to push a package of political and electoral reform bills through the Diet. "The fate and preservation of my cabinet hinges upon the passage of the bills," Hosokawa said. "We should do our utmost."

Shortly after he became prime minister, Hosokawa suggested he would resign the top post if he failed to legislate the package by the year-end. But the ruling coalition extended the term of the current Diet session until January 29 after the opposition scuttled Hosokawa's bid to pass the reform package by the tentative deadline by pressing him to account for a loan from the scandal-ridden Sagawa Kyubin Trucking Company.

The opposition's tactics stalled the package for 35 days in the House of Councillors after it cleared the lower chamber on November 18. The reform package calls for replacing the current multiseat constituency system for the lower chamber with a mixture of single-seat electoral districts and proportional representation, while obligating businesses to divert the flow of political donations to parties rather than individual politicians.

Meanwhile, Hosokawa said he intends to implement hefty fiscal pump-priming measures, but stopped short of mentioning their extent.

Hosokawa suggested he has not yet decided whether to raise the consumption tax rate from the current 3 percent to finance such stimulatory measures. "If I dare to offer to take a bold step, the ruling coalition may disintegrate," he said.

Social Democratic Party [of Japan] Secretary General Wataru Kubo said Wednesday the party would balk at

any rise in the consumption tax rate, although executives of several other parties in the coalition have called for an increase.

Vows To Enact Reform Bills by Feb

*OW2412111493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa revised his pledge Friday [24 December] to enact political reform bills from before year-end to within the current Diet session. In a press conference, Hosokawa said, "objectively speaking, it is getting difficult to legislate political reform bills within the year."

"I would like to apologize to the people for not being able to enact political reform bills within the year," Hosokawa said. The prime minister said the political reform bills should not be scrapped and added, "to make an all-out effort until (the bills) are made into law is one way of taking political responsibility."

In August, Hosokawa, whose assumption to power ousted the Liberal Democratic Party from the ruling position it had held for 38 years, suggested he would "take political responsibility"—which most observers interpreted as stepping down—if he could not legislate political reform bills before the year was out.

A reform package designed to root out corruption cleared the powerful House of Representatives on November 18 and is now pending in the House of Councillors. The special committee of the upper house began deliberations on the package Friday, 36 days after it passed the lower house.

The ruling seven-party coalition forced an extension of the current extraordinary Diet session, which was originally to close December 15, by another 45 days until January 29 to secure passage of the package.

Turning to measures to fire up the sagging economy, Hosokawa proposed six items, including deregulation in such fields as housing, land and telecommunications, assistance to farmers and small and medium-sized companies, the creation of new jobs and a comprehensive tax reform.

'Renewed Determination' Viewed

*OW2412161693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1527 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[by Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's renewed determination to see political reform through reflects one more effort to convince the public of the clear-cut policy priorities of his cabinet and stave off mounting pressure against his hold on power. The premier's simultaneous expression of his resolve to bring the nation out of the economic mire was also

intended to allay public criticisms about the economic management of the seven-party coalition government he heads.

Originally, the Hosokawa government set sail in Japan's rough political seas in August as an administration giving top priority to achieving comprehensive political reform aimed at rooting out the corruption endemic in Japanese public life.

The new leader, whose coalition government toppled the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from power after almost four decades of uninterrupted LDP rule, staked his political future on passage of reform legislation through the Diet by year's end. And the public, disgusted with an array of political scandals under the LDP regime, appeared to throw its full weight behind Hosokawa, lifting public support for his cabinet to record high levels.

With the passage of time, however, the Hosokawa government began to face growing criticism about its perceived ineptness in taking appropriate pump-priming measures at the right time as the worst economic slump in the postwar period threatened to engulf the nation.

The poor harvests of rice and other agricultural products due to the unusually cold summer weather, coupled with the sharp appreciation of the Japanese yen, the fall in stock prices and the government decision to partially open Japan's rice market, have steadily eroded the popularity of Hosokawa's administration. A KYODO NEWS SERVICE poll released last week shows public support for the cabinet down to 62.8 percent, a major plunge of 12.2 percentage points from October.

Diet discussion on a government-sponsored political reform package did not proceed as smoothly as the premier hoped. Despite its passage through the House of Representatives in mid-November, the reform legislation has lain almost dormant in the House of Councillors due chiefly to LDP resistance.

To counter salvos fired from the public as well as his political foes, Hosokawa vowed anew to achieve political reform by a new deadline of January 29, the closing date of the current extra Diet session, while stressing that the government attaches as much importance to the economy as to political reform. It is unclear, however, whether Hosokawa can convince the public and the LDP that his renewed commitment to political reform absolves him of responsibility for violation of the pledge, and hang on to the reins of government.

Although the upper house debate on political reform finally resumed Friday, the LDP is likely to continue to drag its feet in hopes of carrying the government bills over to the next Diet session or, in their brightest scenario, scrapping them outright.

The LDP may also launch attacks on Hosokawa for breaking his promise on political reform. But a senior government official disputed the likelihood of such a

move, saying, "it is not the premier that is responsible for the long delay in (upper house) deliberations."

Another element which will affect the fate of the Hosokawa government is whether coalition partners can maintain unity over the politically sensitive issue of how to cover proposed income tax cuts.

At present, they are sharply divided on the pros and cons of a hike in the consumption tax, now standing at 3 percent, to offset the possible income tax reduction.

Offers Apology to Public

OW2412123993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday [24 December] offered an apology to the public for his failure to achieve political reform by his self-imposed yearend deadline and vowed anew to push reform legislation into law during the current Diet session. "I must offer an outright apology to the public for my failure to see reform through within this year," the premier said at a news conference.

"But after careful consideration...I arrived at the conclusion that it is my duty to do my best until reform legislation is indeed enacted...And that is the way to fulfil my political responsibility." Hosokawa's remarks came after his pledge to push into law by the end of the year sweeping reform measures aimed at cleaning up Japan's corruption-ridden political arena became impossible to meet.

The 56-year-old Hosokawa said upon assuming office in August he would "take political responsibility" if he failed to keep the promise, which was interpreted as meaning he would step down or dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap election.

Although it is already impossible to achieve reform according to his original timetable, the premier said he cannot discontinue his reform efforts now that the government-sponsored reform package has cleared the lower house.

Political reform, featuring proposals for changes in the system of general elections and tighter control of political fund-raising, has dominated Diet debate since 1988, when an array of political scandals involving politicians of the then-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) began rocking the nation.

Hosokawa's two immediate predecessors, Kiichi Miyazawa and Toshiaki Kaifu, were forced to step down due to their failure to pass reform bills through even the first chamber of the Diet.

The premier sidestepped a question on whether he will dissolve the lower house for a snap election or his cabinet will resign en masse in the event that the government package fails to get into the lawbooks by the end of the current extraordinary Diet session on January 29.

"I have yet to give any consideration to a thing like that," he said, adding he believes he will see fruitful results from Diet deliberations between the ruling coalition and opposition parties.

Asked about the possibility of shelving political reform debate to contemplate how to kick-start the stagnant Japanese economy, Hosokawa said his government will take all possible economy-spurring measures while focusing on reform discussion in the upper house.

Hosokawa unveiled a plan to carry out further deregulation to promote new business activities, spur a quick economic recovery and turn Japanese society into a more vital and creative one. He said the government will give priority to life-related and research and development spending in formulating a third fiscal 1993 supplementary budget and a national budget for fiscal 1994, starting next April 1, so as to give a shot in the arm to the ailing Japanese economy.

The premier also said the government will help Japan's agriculture become more competitive and assist small- and medium-sized enterprises' structural adjustment efforts. He promised early implementation of an employment-promotion program and measures to promote land transactions, as well as the outlining of the tax system reform in time for the drafting of the fiscal 1994 state budget.

Hosokawa showed a cautious stance about the issuing of deficit-covering bonds to cover possible income tax cuts but stopped short of saying whether the rate of the consumption tax, now standing at 3 percent, should be raised to offset the tax reduction.

The ruling coalition parties can "definitely" resolve their differences on how to finance the proposed income tax cuts and must do so, the premier said, adding a consumption tax hike would not be the only to cover the income tax reduction. "The conclusion will be reached in the not-so-distant future," the premier said.

Hosokawa said the scale of the third extra budget for this fiscal year and how to finance it are not yet decided.

Questioned After News Conference

*OW2412143893 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0943 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[News Conference held by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo—live]

[Text] [Dean of Press Corps] We will now begin a question-and-answer session. At the beginning, you mentioned political reform bills. I want ask you about these bills. You pledged that your government will enact the bills before the end of the year. In fact, though, it has become clear that it will be impossible to enact them within the year. Immediately after you took office, you said you would take the responsibility if the government

failed to enact them within the year. How exactly do you intend to take responsibility?

[Hosokawa] As I mentioned earlier, I intend to do my utmost to enact the bills now that we are so close to it. This is the way I will fulfill my political responsibility. I feel deeply the importance of fulfilling the responsibility to achieve political reform. I am very well aware, much more than anyone else, of the importance of the ideas I stated at the news conference held immediately after I took office in August.

[Dean of Press Corps] If the government fails to enact the political reform bills before the end of the current Diet session, which will be concluded at the end of January, will you take responsibility as you pledged? Has this basic idea of yours not changed?

[Hosokawa] As I said in my inauguration speech, I have prepared myself for the worst. I have not changed that idea at all.

[Dean of Press Corps] There is an opinion within the ruling and opposition parties that a failure to enact the bills will lead to the dissolution of the House of Representatives. If you fail to enact them, will you dissolve the house or [words indistinct]?

[Hosokawa] I have absolutely no idea about that. I believe we can reach a fruitful conclusion because the ruling and opposition parties still have abundant time to negotiate.

[Dean of Press Corps] As far as the economic recovery is concerned, you have just explained six stimulus measures. I would like to ask how you will implement these measures and what schedule you have for compiling a third supplementary budget for the fiscal year and for the 1994 fiscal year budget.

[Hosokawa] Just this afternoon I asked the Economic Planning Agency director general and other cabinet ministers concerned to compile pump-priming measures by mid-January. I mean the measures to be reflected in the third supplementary budget, which will naturally be compiled before the fiscal 1994 budget. In accordance with my request, the third supplementary budget will be compiled. The government intends to try to reduce time spent on the work so that pump-priming measures can be reflected in the supplementary budget. But even with such efforts, plenty of time will still be needed. After the work, the government will print budgetary documents and submit them to the Diet. We intend to spend as little time as possible on this aspect of the work. The government will also have to compile a budget for fiscal 1994. While keeping a careful watch on developments in the debate on the political reform bills, we will be promoting budget compilation work. I think that when discussions on tax reform at the economic issues council, composed of representatives of the ruling and opposition parties, reach the final stage, the debate on the tax commission and the finance system council will begin. Based on these discussions, the government will work out guidelines for

tax reform and a budget compilation plan. It will also issue an economic outlook and will unofficially announce the budget plan. The government intends to follow this schedule.

[Dean of Press Corps] That is all I want to ask. Now, any news service organizations with questions, please go ahead.

[Unidentified Reporter] I believe you have placed the priority on political reform. However, the nation's economic situation is worse than expected. Some people say the drop in the approval rating for the Hosokawa government is a result of its poor pump-priming measures. Some fear that too much emphasis on political reform might adversely affect other issues. If the economy dips further, will you shelve political reform for a while and place priority on economic recovery, as proposed by the Liberal Democratic Party?

[Hosokawa] As I said earlier, the government should work on the compilation of the fiscal 1994 budget while, at the same time, keeping an eye on political reform. Also, we are considering compiling the third supplementary budget for this fiscal year to continue to stimulate the economy over a 15-month period. I am very worried about the current economic situation. As I said, the government will implement effective economy-boosting measures. To avoid an adverse effect on other issues, I will.... [NHK ends its live coverage with the news conference in progress]

Upper House Committee Begins Reform Debates

OW2412113293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Deliberations at the special committee on political reform of the House of Councillors on the government's four political reform bills finally began Friday [24 December], 36 days after the House of Representatives passed the package.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told the special committee on political reform of the upper house that he hopes it would hold "fruitful discussions." No substantial debates on the package on which Hosokawa has staked his job has been made since the lower house passed it November 18 because of resistance from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

During the morning, members of the LDP and Japanese Communist Party (JCP) boycotted the special committee session. All cabinet ministers and legislators from the ruling seven-party coalition were in their seats, awaiting the arrival of legislators from the two opposition parties.

The LDP dropped its opposition after the ruling coalition confirmed it would adopt a question-and-answer format during the committee session even without the attendance of LDP legislators.

The reform package calls for replacing the current multiple-seat constituency system for the lower chamber with a mixture of single-seat electoral districts and proportional representation, and for tightening rules on political fund-raising.

Shortly after he became prime minister in August, Hosokawa suggested he would resign the top post if he failed to legislate the package by the year-end.

The ruling coalition extended the term of the current Diet session until January 29 after the opposition scuttled Hosokawa's bid to pass the reform package by the tentative deadline.

Hata Ready To Make Reform Concessions to LDP

OW2612103893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] Kanazawa, Dec. 26 KYODO—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Sunday [26 December] that the ruling coalition is ready to make further concessions to the opposition Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] over crucial political reform bills now pending before the House of Councillors. Hata, leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party), a key party in the seven-party coalition, told reporters that although the coalition has already made concessions over the distribution of seats in the proposed electoral reform bill during debates at the House of Representatives, it is ready to make even more.

The lower house on November 18 passed the government-proposed package of four electoral and political reform bills, on which Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has staked his job, after killing an alternative package proposed by the LDP.

The rival packages both emphasize replacing multiseat constituencies, seen as the cause of lavish campaign spending among candidates of the same party, with a system combining single-seat electorates and proportional representation, as well as tightening curbs on political fund-raising.

The government is seeking 274 single-seat districts and 226 seats decided by proportional representation on a nationwide basis, cutting the total to 500 from the current 511. Hosokawa amended an initial plan of 250 seats each as a concession.

The LDP wants 300 single-seat constituencies and 171 proportional representation seats on a prefectural basis.

Hata said it is not time to dissolve the lower house even if the reform bills fail to be enacted, because the economy has been mired in a protracted recession.

Hosokawa on Friday offered an apology to the public for his failure to achieve political reform by his self-imposed, year-end deadline and vowed anew to push

reform legislation into law during the current Diet session, which ends on January 29.

Takemura on Revision of Reform Bills Debate

*OW2712034993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT
27 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Monday [27 December] he anticipates debate will take place between the ruling coalition and the main opposition party over further modifications of government-sponsored political reform bills.

The top government spokesman made the comment at a news conference, responding to a question about Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata's remark that the coalition should be ready to make further concessions to the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on the reform bills.

Hata, who doubles as deputy prime minister, said in Kanazawa on Sunday that although the coalition has already made concessions in the House of Representatives, it should be ready to make even more in the House of Councillors. "I consider his remark very commonsensical," Takemura said, adding he hopes the political reform legislation, aimed at rooting out the corruption endemic in Japanese politics, will be enacted at an early date next year.

The government reform package, featuring changes to the electoral system for lower house elections and tighter curbs on political funding, cleared the lower house in mid-November and is pending in the upper house. The coalition is seeking a formula of 274 single-seat electoral districts, and 226 seats decided by proportional representation on a nationwide basis, cutting the seat total to 500 from the current 511.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa amended an initial plan for the 500 seats to be decided equally by the two methods, on a 250-250 basis, as a concession to the LDP.

Hosokawa, speaking at Monday's session of the upper house political reform panel, showed a flexible stance over the possibility of further modifications of the government reform package.

"I hope for active and positive discussion (in the upper house). It is natural that the government honors the results of the debate," he said, responding to a question from Kokichi Shimoinaba of the LDP.

Earlier Monday, a government source said possible modifications of the reform bills would include a provision stipulating that to be defined as a political party, a political grouping must either have more than five Diet seats or have gained more than 3 percent of votes in the latest election.

Niin Club, a minor party in the upper house, has opposed the government reform bills mainly because of the clause.

The source also suggested Hata made the remark on the potential concessions to the LDP "a little too early."

Lower House Members Disclose Personal Assets

*OW2712025593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT
27 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Eitaro Itoyama, an independent conservative politician, has emerged as the richest lawmaker in the House of Representatives with assets totaling 5.05 billion yen, a list of personal assets disclosed by politicians Monday [27 December] showed.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, founder and head of the Japan New Party, failed to make a list of the top 50 asset holders.

A total of 511 members of the lower house submitted reports on their assets.

Itoyama, 51, who has been elected to the lower chamber three times, reported his fortune includes 3.6 billion yen deposits and a huge number of shares worth more than 1 billion yen. Itoyama is a nephew of Ryoichi Sasagawa, internationally known philanthropist and the "don" of Japan's motor boat race gambling.

Sasagawa's son Takashi ranked second with assets worth 4.09 billion yen.

Yukio and Kunio Hatoyama, brothers who are grandsons of the late Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama, ranked fourth and fifth with 2.47 billion yen and 2.07 billion yen, respectively.

Prime Minister Hosokawa ranked 92nd with assets amounting to 98.44 million yen.

Hosokawa, who came to power in August this year, reported debts totaling 903 million yen, 800 million yen of which he personally borrowed on behalf of his party. His reported assets do not include a 96 million yen villa in the summer resort of Karuizawa, north of Tokyo, because it is owned by his family company, Hosokawa and Associates.

Yohei Kono, president of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, ranked seventh with assets worth about 1.17 billion yen, making him the richest party leader. A survey by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, however, revealed the market value of his assets is estimated at 10.1 billion yen.

Keigo Ouchi, health and welfare minister and chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] in the ruling coalition, ranked 142nd with 61.4 million yen, while Masayoshi Takemura, chief cabinet secretary and head of the coalition Sakigake (Harbinger) party, took the 113th spot with 79.3 million yen.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [of Japan], the largest among the seven coalition parties, reported his assets are valued at 27.3 million yen, ranking him 253rd.

Assets held by members of Sakigake averaged 220 million yen, the highest among the coalition parties, followed by 61 million yen for Shinseito or the Japan Renewal Party, 33 million yen for the SDPJ, 28 million yen for the United Social Democratic Party, 26 million yen for the Japan New Party, 16 million yen for the DSP and 9.1 million yen for Komeito.

The average assets for the opposition LDP stood at 105 million yen against 43 million yen for the coalition camp. The average assets owned by the Japanese people as a whole amount to 23.24 million yen, compared with 91.23 million yen for members of the House of Representatives.

Gross National Assets Fall for 'First Time'

OW2412030293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0133 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan's gross national assets skidded in 1992, for the first time on record, due to the sharp downfalls in land and stock prices, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) reported Friday.

The nation's total assets, comprising tangible assets such as land, and financial assets like stocks and bonds, amounted to 6,925 trillion yen at the end of 1992, down 3.6 percent from a year ago. It marked the first yearly decline since the government started compiling statistics on the assets, in 1955, the EPA said.

The figures were included in the fiscal 1992 report on national accounts, submitted to the day's cabinet meeting.

The first fall in the nation's gross assets was blamed on the largest-ever slide, of 233 trillion yen, in land values, and the 178 trillion yen contraction in stock values, the second largest following the drop in 1990. The crash in stock and land markets scythed some 410 trillion yen off the Japanese assets, equivalent to nearly 90 percent of the nation's nominal gross national product in 1992.

The national wealth, tangible assets plus net overseas assets, also sank 4.7 percent to 3,271 trillion yen, for the second consecutive yearly decline. Tangible assets, including land and corporate inventories, fell 5.3 percent to 3,205 trillion yen, for the second yearly fall in a row.

Financial assets shrank 2.1 percent to 3,720 trillion yen.

The household savings ratio—the ratio of savings to disposable income—was 14.7 percent in 1992, slightly lower than the 14.8 percent in 1991 when the ratio rose for the first time in six years.

The per-capita nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992 was 29,524 dollars, up 8.8 percent from the previous year, and second largest following Switzerland among the 24 member countries of the organization for economic cooperation and development.

The increase was due mainly to the yen's appreciation against the dollar to an average 127 yen from 135 yen in 1991, the EPA said.

Japan's GDP totaled 3,668.9 billion dollars in 1992, second only to that of the United States.

Large Retailers' Nov Sales Fall 6.9 Percent

OW2712064793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0624 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Sales at Japan's large retailers fell 6.9 percent in November from a year earlier to 1,703.5 billion yen, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Monday [27 December]. It was the 18th straight month of a year-on-year sales decline for major retailers, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Sales fell 3.5 percent in October and 3.7 percent in September.

Sales at 424 department stores nationwide fell 8.0 percent from a year earlier to 898.9 billion yen, posting the 21st successive month of yearly declines, the ministry said. Sales at 2,049 supermarket chains decreased 5.5 percent to 804.6 billion yen, marking the 16th straight month of annual drops.

A ministry official attributed the sales slump in November to consumers going for cheaper goods as the economic slump drags on.

Weather factors such as a relatively mild winter so far also contributed to the sluggish sales, he said. Sales of clothes in November dropped 9.0 percent from a year earlier for the 16th straight month of yearly falls, partly due to poor demand for winter clothing, including coats, as well as for items such as business suits.

Clothing sales at department stores fell 8.9 percent, while those at supermarket chains decreased 9.3 percent.

Sales of food and beverages at department stores dropped 4.5 percent from a year earlier and those at supermarket chains declined 1.7 percent, with combined sales falling 2.7 percent. The drop in overall food and beverages sales was partly due to dull demand for year-end gifts and the fact that there was one less Sunday in the month this year than last year, the official said.

Demand for luxury goods and large commodities, such as paintings, arts and crafts goods, furniture and electrical appliances, remained weak.

The ministry official predicted that sales in December may not drop from a year earlier as much as in November because the number of Saturdays and Sundays in the month is the same as last year, but the basic sluggish trend in sales may remain unchanged for some time. Consumers are likely to continue preferring low-priced goods, he said, noting that winter bonuses were rather small this year.

Hosokawa Expects Economic Recovery 'Next Summer'

*OW2412152093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1506 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday [24 December] he expects the economy to upward from its prolonged recession around next summer. Hosokawa made the remark in an interview with local media from the Kyushu region, including his home area of Kumamoto Prefecture.

In the interview, Hosokawa said, "although pessimism is prevalent over the prospects for the economy, I take rather a different view... I think the economy will take a turn for the better next summer."

The prime minister said inventory adjustment will begin around next year because it will be five years since sales of automobiles reach a peak.

On the realignment of political forces, Hosokawa said movement toward the realignment will start when the current electoral system changes.

The Diet is currently deliberating the government's electoral reform bills for the House of Representatives, which calls for the introduction of a mixture of single-seat districts and proportional representation instead of the existing multiseat constituencies.

Urges New Stimulative Steps

*OW2412082493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa plans to work out new stimulative measures by the middle of January in order to shore up the faltering economy, a senior Economic Planning Agency (EPA) official said Friday [24 December]. Tsutomu Tanaka, vice minister of the EPA, told a news conference that Hosokawa has instructed cabinet ministers in charge of economic affairs to come with the measures by mid-January.

Tanaka said the instruction was issued Friday at a meeting attended by Economic Planning Agency head

Manae Kubota, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai. Tanaka declined to elaborate on the new steps but said a proposed tax system reform, including tax cuts, will be reviewed at a meeting of economic ministers.

Fujii on Possible Third Supplementary Budget

*OW2412121993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Friday night [24 December] that new stimulus measures under consideration include a third supplementary budget for the current fiscal year. Speaking at a press conference, Fujii said that the extra budget will be one of the pillars of new stimulus measures to pull the economy out of recession.

Fujii's comments came after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told an official press conference that the government is considering new measures to stimulate the sluggish economy. Echoing a statement he made earlier in the day, Fujii said an income tax cut must be discussed in a package with a consumption tax rise.

Government 'Closely' Watching Stock Market

*OW2712075693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT
27 Dec 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—The government is closely monitoring developments in the Tokyo stock market as a key indicator of Japan's economic conditions, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said Monday [27 December]. "Given the current state of the economy, we are closely watching movements in stock prices," the top government spokesman said at a news conference.

Takemura said the government should refrain from commenting on every movement in share prices as they show both ups and downs.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 blue chips shaved 321.23 points to 16,819.88 Monday, finishing below the 17,000 mark for the first time since December 8.

North Korea**Reportage on Visit of UN Secretary-General****UN Secretary-General Arrives**

*SK2412094993 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0915 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] His Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN Secretary-General who will make an official visit to our country at the invitation of the DPRK Government, and his wife, today arrived in Pyongyang.

The entourage of the secretary-general is composed of Marrack Goulding, UN deputy secretary-general for political affairs, and other members.

Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister, and wife, and other officials concerned including Choe U-chin, vice foreign minister, greeted the guests.

(Juipark Akikujad,) representative of the UN Development Program to our country, and 'Ali al-Mutawalli Hijazi, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, also greeted the entourage.

A child presented a bouquet to His Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali. The guests crossed Panmunjom today.

At Panmungak, his excellency secretary general saw the Conference Room of the Military Armistice Commission and overviews of Panmunjom, and rested at the Tongilgak.

He said he believes that the current visit will contribute to the reunification of Korea. Noting that he came a long way for reunification, cooperation, and peace, he stressed that he hopes that the Military Demarcation Line will be removed in the future.

The guests also toured the armistice negotiation conference room and the room in which the Armistice Agreement was signed.

Spokesman Answers Questions

*SK2412014893 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0104 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] Today, a Foreign Ministry spokesman replied to the question posed by a KCNA reporter in connection with the passage to Pyongyang through Panmunjom of the UN secretary general and his entourage on a visit to the DPRK. He said:

The UN secretary general and his entourage are coming to Pyongyang today through Panmunjom upon their request. We have allowed them to do so as an exception [yewoejoguro hoyonghan kosida].

As everyone knows, the United Nations not only has a certain responsibility for the division of the Korean peninsula but it is still the other party legally at war with us as a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement.

We have acceded to their request with the hope that the UN secretary general and his entourage, seeing the reality firsthand while crossing the Military Demarcation Line, will help rectify the abnormal relations between our country and the United Nations.

We think that the visit to our country by the UN secretary general and his entourage will positively contribute to improve relations between the DPRK and the United Nations.

Nuclear Issue Discussed

*SK2412152493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515
GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, September 24 (KCNA)—Talks were held between Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choe U-chin and other officials concerned and on the opposite side were Under-secretary-General of the UN for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding and others accompanying the UN Secretary-General and UNDP representative to Korea G. Faruq Achikzad.

The sides exchanged views on relations between the DPRK and the United Nations, the Korean reunification question and the nuclear issue.

Remarks Made at Reception

*SK2412153493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526
GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 24 (KCNA)—The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea hosted a reception at the Mansudae Assembly Hall this evening for United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on an official visit to the DPRK.

Invited to the reception were his entourage and representative of the UN Development Program to Korea G. Faruq Achikzad.

In his speech Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam said he thought that the UN Secretary-General must have felt a lot, crossing the Military Demarcation Line along which a concrete wall extends.

He said:

This is probably because of the historical fact that the United Nations is directly involved in the abnormal situation in which the Korean nation that had lived a harmonious life in the same territory for thousands of years was divided into two nearly half a century ago.

This also must be out of the hope that the flag of the United Nations will no longer be abused by the United

States and the United Nations will no longer remain the belligerent against the DPRK under the armistice agreement.

It is a demand of the time which brooks no further delay both in view of its responsibility for the Korean question and its obligation to the international community that the United Nations take practical steps now to replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

This accords with the new circumstances in which the DPRK became a full-fledged member nation of the United Nations. So it is natural. Taking such steps means liquidating the unsavory past in its relations with the DPRK and improving the abnormal relations.

This will be also conducive to removing the last legacy of the Cold War and ensuring peace and security in North-east Asia.

Today our people are defending and developing Korean-style socialism which they chose and built with their own efforts under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem. They are also making all sincere efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula and its independent reunification.

It is our consistent position to achieve a negotiated, peaceful solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

But, if the United States put unjustifiable pressure on the DPRK, ignoring its sincere efforts and persistently pursuing a hostile policy toward it, we would have no other choice but to take decisive measures for defending the nation's sovereignty.

Our people will make every possible effort to denuclearize the peninsula and achieve its peace and peaceful reunification, surmounting all the obstacles and difficulties.

Speaking next, the UN Secretary-General expressed deep thanks to the president and government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for hospitality.

"This is the first visit of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since your country's admission to the United Nations," he said. He said the DPRK's joining the United Nations two years ago meant an important change both for the DPRK and the United Nations. Expressing his sincere hope that one day, the North and the South of Korea will be represented in the UN as one, he said:

"A permanent peace on the Korean peninsula—to replace the 1953 armistice agreement—remains a key aim of the international community. When such a peace is achieved, I have confidence that the security council will take steps to dissolve the United Nations Command in Korea, which has been in place since 1950.

"Through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations is associated with your country's international economic cooperation program."

He said the UNDP role is to have all the international economic agreements and cooperation promoted and the Tumen River Area Development Program augers considerable potential for international economic cooperation.

'Warm, Friendly' Talks Held

*SK2512082393 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received His Excellency UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and his wife who are paying an official visit to the DPRK on 25 December. Undersecretary-General of the UN for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding and other delegation members were on hand. Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and his wife; Vice Foreign Minister Choe U-chin; and United Nations Development Program representative to the DPRK G. Faruq Achikzad were also on hand.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song held talks with His Excellency Secretary-General in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for His Excellency Secretary-General, his wife, and his delegation members.

Kim Il-song Boyhood Home Visited

*SK2512110593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032
GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and his entourage on an official visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea went to Mangyongdae today.

They saw relics preserved at the old home of the great leader President Kim Il-song, while being briefed on his glorious revolutionary history and his revolutionary family.

They posed for a photograph in front of the old home.

The guests also visited the Korean Central History Museum.

They saw with keen interest many materials and relics showing the 5,000 years long history and brilliant culture of the Korean people.

Earlier, the wife of the UN secretary-general and other guests called at the Changgwang Kindergarten.

The guests were invited to see a music and dance performance at the Mansudae Art Theatre in the evening.

Kim Il-song Receives Gift

*SK2512110793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028
GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song was presented with a gift by visiting United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The gift was handed to an official concerned.

Kim Chong-il Receives Gift

*SK2512110893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029
GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by visiting United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The gift was handed to an official concerned.

Butrus-Ghali's News Conference

*SK2612141393 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1305 GMT 26 Dec 93*

[News conference by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali with foreign and domestic reporters at an airport in Pyongyang upon his departure from the DPRK on 26 December. Butrus-Ghali speaks in English with superimposed Korean translation—recorded]

[Text] His Excellency UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who had made an official visit to our country at the invitation of the DPRK Government, held a news conference with foreign and domestic reporters at an airport prior to leaving Pyongyang on 26 December.

Present in the news conference were reporters of newspapers, the news agency, radio, and the press and publication in Pyongyang. Present also were various countries' foreign correspondents in our country and reporters accompanying the UN secretary general.

In the news conference, His Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali spoke first:

[Butrus-Ghali] I will issue a short statement prior to leaving for Beijing. I expressed gratitude for receiving warm hospitality from the DPRK Government and people during my stay. His excellency President Kim Il-song granted the glory of receiving our entourage and arranging a luncheon. His excellency the president discussed with us the issue concerning the reunification of the Korean peninsula. His excellency the president informed us of various policies that the DPRK has conducted; other various policies; and the issue of UN technological cooperation in the DPRK.

I held consultative talks with His Excellency Kim Yongnam, the vice premier and foreign minister. We exchanged opinions about various important issues related with relations between the United Nations and the DPRK.

I think that the purpose of Korean reunification can be realized through a gradual process. Of course, I do not underestimate the difficulties caused by division and distrust over a long period. However, I am convinced that a solution method through negotiations can be worked out gradually. The international community and the United Nations should find a method for the security, reunification, and development of the Korean peninsula. I will return to the United Nations by way of the PRC. Thank you.

If you ask me questions, I will answer.

[XINHUA reporter] I am the reporter from the Chinese XINHUA News Agency. I will ask you a question. Because the secretary general visited the North and the South of Korea and is aware of the situation of Korea, in which direction do you think the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula should be resolved?

[Butrus-Ghali] The United Nations is based on the philosophy that negotiations should be held in a timely manner. All issues should be peacefully resolved through negotiations.

[CHOSON SINBO reporter] I am the reporter from the CHOSON SINBO. Mr. UN Secretary General came to our country by crossing through Panmunjom. Would you tell me your impression of crossing through Panmunjom.

[Butrus-Ghali] I think that the artificial division wall should be pulled down. The reunification of Korea should be realized through talks, negotiations, and dialogue. As one nation which lives in the same territory with one language, a solution method for reunification can be worked out.

In my addresses on several occasions, I have expressed the hope that Korea will attend the United Nations as one representative in the near future.

[Reporter] I am a reporter from the Central Broadcasting Committee. The nuclear issue is not the kind of issue to be discussed in the United Nations. What do you think?

[Butrus-Ghali] I believe that the negotiations are going on now between the governments of Pyongyang and Washington over the nuclear issue. We hope that a peaceful solution will be made in connection with this issue. I think that the secretary general has no authority to decide how this issue should be discussed.

[PYONGYANG SINMUN reporter] I am a reporter from the PYONGYANG SINMUN. Because of the Armistice Agreement with the UN Forces side, the relations between our country and the United Nations are not considered normal. Please tell us what the UN secretary general can do to disband the UN Forces Command and replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

[Butrus-Ghali] I think that replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is the matter to be settled between the countries concerned to the Armistice Agreement.

[MINJU CHOSON reporter] I am a reporter from the government organ MINJU CHOSON. Now there are rising opinions that the United Nations is under the excessive influence of the superpower. What do you think ought to be done in connection with the issue of reforming the United Nations to ensure impartiality and democratization?

[Butrus-Ghali] Over the last two years, the UN Security Council adopted all resolutions through unanimous agreement [ilchi habui]. At present there are 184 UN member states. I hope all the problems will be settled through unanimous agreement in the UN General Assembly in the future as well. To achieve unanimous agreement and realize democracy, all the UN member states should participate more actively in UN operations with greater political volition. This will help facilitate the democratization process. I thank the government and the people of the DPRK for their warm hospitality. Thank you.

Butrus-Ghali Departure Reported

*SK2612082293 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 26 Dec 93*

[Text] His Excellency Butrus Butrus-Ghali, United Nations secretary general; Mrs. Butrus-Ghali; and his entourage, who had made an official visit to our country at the invitation of the DPRK, left Pyongyang today by airplane.

Kim Yong-nam, vice premier and foreign minister; Mrs. Kim Yong-nam; Choe U-chin, vice foreign minister; and other functionaries concerned saw off the guests.

(J. Park Akikujar), representative of the UN Development Program in our country; 'Ali al-Mutawalli Hijazi, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt; and Qiao Zonghuai, PRC ambassador, saw off the entourage.

Pyongyang Welcomes South Korean Defector

*SK2212113793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1055
GMT 22 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—Pyongyang citizens met today to welcome Pak Hung-tal who had come over to the North from South Korea some time ago.

At the meeting an Order of the DPRK, monetary prize and souvenirs were conveyed to him.

Addressing the meeting, Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, said that Pak Hung-tal made the bold decision to come to the socialist motherland because he realized that the bosom of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il revered by our nation and the world is the bosom of love and happiness for all the fellow countrymen.

Speaking in reply, Pak Hung-tal said that he was particularly interested in the great chuche idea when listening to the lectures of Kim Il-song Radio College in the South.

"Listening to those lectures on the chuche idea, I learned that man is held dearest in the North," he said.

Saying that the Kim Yong-sam "civilian government" sides with those with power and money, not with the popular masses, he branded it as an anti-national, confrontational "government" antagonizing fellow countrymen and pursuing confrontation as the former military dictatorial "regimes" did. He said he did not want to live in that society any longer.

He firmly resolved to devote his all to accomplishing national reunification in the 90s at any cost by studying hard with boundless happiness and pride in having been embraced in the bosoms of love of respected President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il, the sun of the nation and the lodestar of national reunification, whom all the people of our nation should hold in high esteem and follow.

South's Maneuvers Against North Alleged

*SK2512045793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421
GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—A group of tanks of the South Korean puppet army Thursday moved to Kumpa-ri, Paju County, South Korea, and fired scores of shells at Hapo-ri on the Imjin riverside, while large-calibre artillery units took firing positions in Tupo-ri, Paju County, and Chorwon-up and Yulli-ri, Chorwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, and vomited fire at areas adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone, according to military sources.

Puppet army soldiers staged an attack exercise simulating a breakthrough in the Military Demarcation Line in Chungsa-ri, Yonchon County, and Paengnyon-ri, Paju County, on the same day, firing large-calibre machine-guns and automatic rifles.

That day, formations of helicopter gunships and helicopter transports of the puppet army flew above Majon-ri, Yonchon County, Chomwon-ri and Munsan-ri, Paju County, and Majwa-ri, Kosong County, South Korean Kangwon Province, to stage exercises for fire support and airlift of combat equipment to ground attacking units.

Such undisguised military manoeuvres of the South Korean puppets under the nose of the North have brought into bolder relief the bellicose nature of the Kim Yong-sam group styling itself a "civilian regime."

Comments by ROK Defense Minister Criticized

SK2712042093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0407
GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 27 (KCNA)—The newly appointed puppet defence minister of South Korea, Yi Pyong-tae, in his "inaugural address" incited war fever, crying for "maximum combat power" and "close cooperation with Armies of friendly countries."

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

He whipped up war hysterics, while talking about the grave consequences of a fratricidal war. This suggests that he is a more crafty and dangerous fellow than his predecessor.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique of South Korea is now facing a strong protest of the people for the long string of anti-national crimes it has committed after seizing power under the cloak of "civilian administration" and "reforms," especially for its flunkeyist treachery in opening the South Korean rice market.

The puppets are trying to divert elsewhere the attention of the people with outcries over "threat from the North" and "nuclear threat", and find a way out in harshly suppressing their anti-"government" struggle. They also intend to unhesitatingly ignite a war against the North in league with outside forces.

The new "defence minister's" call for "maximum combat power" of the puppet Army and "close cooperation with Armies of friendly nations" means that they will reinforce the puppet Army and unleash a war on the Korean peninsula at any cost hand in glove with foreign aggression forces. He also cried for "reforms of the Army," "steadfast occupational spirit" and "strong discipline." This discloses the scheme to reorganize the puppet Army to be mobilized anytime for a war against the North and train it well as cannon fodder.

If Kim Yong-sam the traitor intends to get something from a military adventure after seating such a warmaniac as Yi Pyong-tae at the post of the military boss, it is a foolish act.

We are ready to control those fond of fire with fire.

If the South Korean puppet clique persistently seek confrontation and war, they would meet their own destruction.

Japanese Atomic Bomb Said 'Close at Hand'

SK2512104193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005
GMT 25 Dec 93

["Japan's Nuclear Armament Is Source of New Disaster"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 25 (KCNA)—Japan is running headlong toward nuclear armament, ignoring the

concern and opposition of the world people. This is a dangerous hotbed of war of aggression in Asia and a source of a new nuclear holocaust.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a by-lined article today.

Noting that Japan's possession of nuclear weapons is not a thing of a distant future but a thing close at hand, the article says:

The nuclear armament of Japan is very dangerous because it is based on revanchist ambition. The Japanese ruling quarters have built up their strength, whetting the sword of revenge for nearly half a century after the war, saying that Japan was defeated in the war of aggression for the conquest of Asia in the past because it was weak. They set it as an immediate task for turning Japan into a military power to arm the Japanese Army with nuclear weapons.

Japan's nuclear armament is a means of revenge for its past defeat and an offspring of the wild ambition to realize its shattered old dream of "the greater East Asia coprosperity sphere" by strength. It is dangerous as the target of its attack has expanded to a global scale.

Japan has already developed a rocket with a range of 7,000 to 9,000 km for the development of means of nuclear delivery under the cloak of "space development". This tells that the target of attack has expanded to the global scale, not confined to Asia-Pacific region. The United States is not an exception in this.

Japan's nuclear armament is also dangerous because it has no institutional mechanism blocking the use of nuclear weapons.

The Japanese ruling quarters are openly demanding that the Constitution be revised to allow the military operations of the Japanese Army overseas. The amendment of the Constitution is aimed at allowing the overseas military operation of the Japanese Armed Forces for the present and opening the way of the use of nuclear weapons finally.

The nuclear armament of Japan is dangerous as the aggressive nature of Japan which has the bad habit of surprise attack has not changed.

If Japan is armed with nuclear weapons, no one can predict when it would make a surprise nuclear forestalling attack under what pretext.

Leaders Send Farm Machines to Mozambique

SK2212044393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419
GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—Farm machines sent by the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were conveyed to the Maleice Agricultural Cooperative, Mozambique, on December 17.

At the meeting for conveying the machines the Korean Ambassador handed their list to Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano.

After seeing the machines, the Mozambican president expressed his heartfelt, deepest thanks to the great leader of the Korean people Comrade President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il for the good machines.

Referring to the development of friendly relations between Korea and Mozambique, he hoped that cooperation would be further expanded in agricultural and other fields.

Zimbabwean Politician's Views of DPRK Noted

*SK2212121693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1030
GMT 22 Dec 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—“No force can break the singlehearted unity of the Korean people around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and, for this, Korean-style socialism will make a long drive,” said Stephen Nkomo, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front.

Giving his impressions of Korea, he said the singlehearted unity of Korea was one based on morality and sense of obligation of the Korean people resolved to repay with loyalty the benevolence of the great Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who had provided them with genuine political rights, freedom and a happy material and cultural life.

Noting that the people of the DPRK were leading a happy material and cultural life, he said they were working according to their taste and preparedness, enjoying free medical care and having their children educated free of charge under the care of the party and the state.

He further said:

“All the people are fully discharging their responsibility and role as full-fledged masters of the country with genuine political rights and freedom. This is the reality of the DPRK.”

He stressed that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was guiding all the work of the country including the affairs of the party, the state and the People's Armed Forces, devoting his all to the people.

Paper Hails Kim Chong-il's Leadership of Army

*SK2412122693 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[NODONG SINMUN 24 December editorial: “The Korean People's Army Advancing Under the Leadership of the Comrade Supreme Commander Is Invincible”]

[Text] Our People's Army is a glorious Army of the party, Army of the revolution, and a reliable defender of socialism of our own style. Currently, our People's Army is ever so firmly defending its party, revolution, and its socialist fatherland and people with an invincible might and combat strength.

The source of high honor, dignity, and invincibility which is possessed by our revolutionary Armed Forces today, lies in highly upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the iron-willed commander, at its highest position.

Two years ago the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was enthusiastically elected as the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA]. This was an epoch-making event bringing about a new turning point in strengthening and developing our People's Army and in the struggle to complete the chuche revolutionary cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: At the 19th plenary session of our Sixth party Central Committee, Comrade Kim Chong-il was elected as the KPA supreme commander. This is a high assessment of his qualifications and the revolutionary achievements he realized. At the same time this is an expression of the firm will of our party and people to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end under his leadership.

A leader [yongdoja] plays a decisive role in the construction of the revolutionary armed force. Only a revolutionary army that upholds a great strategist possessed with an extraordinary military wisdom, peerless courage, and an excellent art of commanding the army, can brilliantly succeed the glorious struggle tradition and can be victorious in a fight with any kind of powerful enemy.

From the first period of leading the revolution and construction, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il completely embodied the chuche military ideology and wisely led the whole Army. He is a genius of the military and a great military strategist who brilliantly solves all problems in the military construction of our era.

Our People's Army is advancing under the slogan of modeling the whole Army after the chuche idea by highly upholding the dear comrade leader as the supreme commander. Therefore a brighter future has been unfolded in the future road of our People's Army and a firm guarantee has been provided in which it can firmly defend our nation's sovereign right and revolutionary gains in whatever environment. This became an important historical event in brilliantly completing the chuche military construction cause and socialist cause.

Highly electing the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the KPA supreme commander was an expression of absolute trust in their leader [yongdoja] by our people and soldiers of the People's Army. It was also a manifestation of the firm will of our party and people to advocate, adhere to, and complete to the end the chuche socialist cause under the party's leadership.

Today, the officers and men of our People's Army and people are deeply bearing in their minds the great emotion and delight of that day and are highly upholding the dear comrade leader through the single-hearted unity of loyalty.

The period when our revolutionary armed force vigorously advanced according to the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was a glorious period in which it was most brilliantly unfolded during the history of the *chuche* military construction. In the past the environment at home and abroad of our revolution was truly severe. Because of the reckless war commotions and aggressive maneuvers of the imperialists, the danger of a war did not disappear at all in our country and there was a time of a dangerous touch-and-go situation.

Nevertheless, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, led our revolutionary armed force making it possible for us to repeatedly achieve victory in the acute military and political confrontation where the enemy's guns and shells were not fired.

Not wavering even under any thunder and lightning, the leadership of the comrade supreme commander—who has indomitable will and grit, extraordinary military wisdom, and distinguished commanding art—is the source whereby the socialism of our style has been adhered to and illuminated as an iron-clad bastion.

Whenever our officers and soldiers of the People's Army and the people think about the arduous course of struggle and today's great reality, they come to further cherish deep in their hearts how great a brilliant commander they have at the head of the revolutionary Army.

Today the KPA is steadily growing in strength as a most powerful revolutionary army which can firmly defend the party and the socialist cause in any adversity under his leadership.

One of his distinguished exploits in the *chuche* cause of Army building is that he has built the whole Army as combat ranks with loyalty and filial piety and brought the political and ideological might of our Army into fullest play.

The might of the revolutionary army equals the political and ideological might. The army holding guns, above all, should be ideologically steadfast. Historic lessons tell us that even a large army that has thousands or millions of soldiers and that is armed with modern arms becomes powerless if it is ideologically dismantled.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il did his best to strengthen the political and ideological might of our People's Army which regards it as its life to uphold the party and the leader during the entire period of leading the cause of *chuche* military construction.

The political and ideological indoctrination work has been decisively strengthened in the Army through modeling the entire Army on the *chuche* idea, the backbone of our revolutionary Armed Forces has been prepared

with a vanguard who are endlessly loyal to the party and the leader, and the entire Army is filled with loyalty that is inherited generation after generation. These are brilliant fruitions of the comrade dear leader's wise leadership which intended to highly display the superiority of the revolutionary Army.

Under our supreme commander's leadership, the political and ideological traits of our People's Army have been promoted onto a higher stage. It finds clear expression in the revolutionary military discipline holding sway in the whole Army.

The revolutionary military discipline of our People's Army is a resolute struggle spirit of safeguarding the comrade supreme commander with the do-or-die determination in whatever environment. It is also a lucid revolutionary spirit to unconditionally and thoroughly implement the order of the supreme commander without the slightest delay.

With the military spirit of not being yielded even though they may surrender, the officers and men of our People's Army consistently and vigorously stepped forward during the semi-state-of-war period and did not allow the enemies to touch even one inch of land or a single blade of grass. Today they are fully prepared for combat mobilization.

Heroic fighters like heroes Kim Kwang-chol and Han Yong-chol who are regarded as examples of loyalty among our people were produced in great numbers. There are also true revolutionary fighters like Pak Yong-chol and his seven brothers and Yi Chang-ung and his seven brothers and sisters who are possessed with the firm determination to become guns and bombs to safeguard the party with the do-or-die spirit. This shows the lofty spiritual and moral trait of our People's Army.

The virtue of unity between officers and men and unity between the party and the (society) are being highly manifested under the leadership of the dear comrade leader, and the iron-willed military discipline has been established by the whole Army. Thus, our People's Army is becoming the ranks of single-hearted unity breathing and moving only according to the party's intention. There is no force in this world that can squelch the political and ideological might of our People's Army.

The military might of our People's Army has been firmly consolidated as one-a-match-for-100. This is an immortal achievement made by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the *chuche* military construction cause. Our revolutionary force is a mighty military that defeated the two wicked imperialists with the magnificent tradition and abundant experience. It is also a revolutionary armed force which has been endlessly strengthened and developed militarily and technically in the long revolutionary struggle course.

The military might of our Armed Forces is stronger than ever. Under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the policy of converting the

entire Army into a cadre army and modernizing the entire Army has been thoroughly realized, so that all the soldiers are brought up to be brilliant fighters, and all the units have been armed more strongly with powerful modern arms and combat technology and equipment. Our Army is firmly prepared so that it can defend the chuche socialist fatherland like a fortress no matter when the imperialists attack us.

The might of our People's Army which has grown to be a strong one-a-match-for-a hundred Army gives our party members and working people firm confidence in the future and in the invincibility of the chuche socialist cause. Sharing an important position in the achievements made by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the course of building the chuche-oriented Army is the fact that he made the great idea of Army-people harmony prevail in the country. The wholehearted harmony between the Army and the people is the source of our invincible might and a firm guarantee for the victory of the revolutionary war.

Our party's idea of Army-people harmony is the great idea of the Army holding the people dear, waging a devoted struggle for the people, and the people holding the People's Army dear like members of their own family and assisting them actively, thus making the Army-people relations kinship relations inseparable by anything. Our party's Army-people harmony idea is realized at an unprecedented high level with the appointment of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as KPA supreme commander as a turning point. Our comrade supreme commander defined the high display of the virtue of Army-people harmony to be an important work in the acceleration of army building and the socialist cause and saw to it that the virtue of regarding the military affairs as important and actively helping the People's Army overflow in the entire country.

Today, all the people, men and women, young and old, in our society think much of the soldiers of our People's Army—the fighters of the comrade supreme commander—and do everything they can for the Army. The soldiers of our People's Army, on their part, are waging a devoted struggle to defend the people's lives and properties and to help them actively. There has never been a time when the Army and the people were united as firmly as they are with loyalty and filial duty in upholding the great leader [widaehan yongdoja].

Truly, incalculable is the achievement made by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the struggle to strengthen and develop our People's Army and to strengthen the country's defense capability. Because he made this immortal revolutionary achievement, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is highly praised as the most outstanding military genius and as a great strategist who leads the socialist cause along the ever-victorious road.

It is the greatest glory and happiness of our party, our people, and our revolutionary Armed Forces to uphold

at their head the great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who has both literary and military accomplishments, treats military affairs as the most important state affairs, and leads our people to victory and glory.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have traversed a proud road of victory, firmly defending the party and the revolution. However, our revolution's road of march has not ended, and there is still an arduous journey the Korean revolution has to make. Today, the imperialists and reactionaries are stepping up a counterrevolutionary offensive in all areas—political, economic, and military—to stifle [chilsik] and crush [malsal] our-style socialism. We must continuously strengthen and develop our People's Army under any circumstances to make it a powerful revolutionary Army which can firmly defend the chuche socialist fatherland. All the soldiers of the People's Army should deeply cherish their absolute loyalty to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, KPA supreme commander and chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, and protect and defend the party and the leader resolutely to the end.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces are a glorious army which has created and added luster to the tradition of most firm loyalty to the leader since the pioneering era of the revolution. We must inherit and add further luster to this proud tradition of loyalty of our People's Army on the road of upholding our supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The leadership of the comrade supreme commander is the life of the People's Army and a decisive reason for a victory in army building and military activities.

They must strongly prepare themselves as genuine loyalists and dutiful children who have the firm belief and will that they know no one else but our comrade supreme commander; who leave all of their destiny to the comrade supreme commander's tender mercy; who have loyalty, which is their belief and moral obligation and part of their life; and who uphold the leader [yongdoja] single-mindedly.

The People's Army soldiers must have a firm ideological determination to politically and ideologically defend the comrade supreme commander by even sacrificing their lives under any environment. They must also think and act only according to the comrade supreme commander's ideas and intentions anytime anywhere.

All People's Army officers and men must ideologically and voluntarily unite themselves based on revolutionary comradeship and loyalty to the party and the revolutionary cause and highly demonstrate the beautiful trait of unity between officers and men and unity between the (party and society).

Our party's chuche-oriented military ideas, theories, and tactics are weapons for the People's Army's invincibility. The chuche-oriented military ideas and tactics created by the great leader is now being deepened by the dear comrade leader. All People's Army officers and men

must establish the firmer revolutionary spirit of strongly arming themselves with the creative strategies and tactics of our own style presented by the dear comrade leader, carrying out all military activities based on those strategies and tactics, and implementing the comrade supreme commander's orders without fail.

Today's situation facing the revolution demands that all soldiers more strongly prepare themselves militarily and technologically to strongly defend our socialism with guns at anytime. All commanding officers and soldiers must improve their qualifications to ensure that they are well versed with military science and technology and skillfully carry out their duties under any circumstances to comply with the requirements of modern war. All the soldiers must establish a spirit for revolutionary training in the entire Army under the slogan "Training, too, is a combat!" and, thus, further strengthen our People's Army into invincible ranks.

Defending the socialist fatherland is a task that all the people must carry out. Vigorously pushing ahead with both national defense and socialist construction with a rifle in one hand and a hammer or sickle in the other is our people's firm will.

We must more strongly consolidate the all-people, entire-state defense system [choninmimjok chonguk-kajok pangwichegye] by thoroughly implementing our party's policy on arming all people and fortifying the entire country. All party members and workers must strongly arm themselves with our party's revolutionary view on war and firmly establish the spirit of attaching importance to military affairs in all of society.

Members of the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards must cherish deep in their hearts pride in being revolutionary warriors of the comrade supreme commander, better make military and technological preparations, and defend their work places, schools, and villages like a fortress. Under the uplifted banner of self-reliance and arduous struggle, all the people must unanimously participate in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 21st Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee and score new revolutionary upsurges in all fields of socialist economic construction.

Further glorifying the beautiful trait of unity between the Army and people, which highly displayed in our society, is a firm guarantee for strongly defending the socialism of our own style. By further deepening this work, we must firmly consolidate our society into a single organism in which the party, Army, and people are united in close ties of kinship.

All party members and workers must more vigorously carry out the our-guardpost-is-our-village, our-village-is-our-guardpost movement and the movement to win the title of model county in unity between the Army and people, the movements whose vitality has already been demonstrated clearly. Party organizations

of all levels must strengthen organizational and political work to ensure all functionaries and workers positively help the People's Army.

The People's Army soldiers' revolutionary spirit is very high, and our army building has brighter prospects. Our People's Army which is resolutely marching under the leadership of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, an ever-victorious iron-willed commander. Honor to the heroic KPA, our party's revolutionary armed forces!

KPA's Task Said Reunification 'With Guns'

*SK2512080193 Pyongyang Korean Central
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[Speech by Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, member of Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army (KPA), at a report meeting marking the second anniversary of Kim Chong-il election as KPA supreme commander at Pyongyang's 8 February Hall of Culture on 23 December—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: Under today's encouraging circumstances in which with the ever-victorious faith, the entire people and KPA [Korean People's Army] soldiers throughout the country are single-heartedly united around the party and the leader, smash the challenge by the imperialists and reactionaries, and vigorously accelerate an all-out march to brilliantly complete the chuche-oriented socialist cause, we significantly mark the second anniversary of the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as KPA supreme commander. [applause]

On the occasion of this glorious day, the hearts of our people and KPA soldiers are vigorously brimming over with the great pride and confidence in upholding the most distinguished commander in the world [chonha cheil myongjang] as the supreme commander of the revolutionary armed forces. They are overflowing with the revolutionary obligation and indomitable fighting spirit to complete the chuche revolutionary cause to the end under the great leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

At the 19th plenary session of the Sixth party Central Committee on 24 December 1991, recorded in gold letters in the proud history of our party and revolutionary armed forces, electing the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as KPA supreme commander was a historic event. This is specially noteworthy in developing our revolution and in constructing the revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

Upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme head of the revolutionary armed forces was a brilliant realization of the long-cherished unanimous desire and ambition of our people and KPA soldiers. This was also a great happy event, which has laid a firm foundation capable of strengthening and developing the

KPA into the ever-victorious revolutionary armed forces which are endlessly faithful to the party and the revolution for good. [applause]

The might of the Army depends upon the greatness of the leader [yongdoja]. For the revolutionary forces, nothing is happier than upholding the outstanding commander as the supreme commander. Our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is not only the genuine leader [chidoja] for the people, who is possessed of both literary and military accomplishments, but also the most distinguished commander, who is possessed of all characters and quality, including genius wisdom, outstanding strategy, ever-victorious tactics of leading the Army, iron-willed volition, matchless grit, and the warmhearted ideology of loving soldiers. [applause]

In the past, there had been military strategists famous for wise strategies, distinguished generals well known for military arts, and generals who moved the soldiers' hearts with moral reputation. However, thousands of those generals cannot be compared with the greatness of our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il. Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, great man of the era and distinguished commander of distinguished commanders, is the greatest happiness, infinite glory, and pride of our KPA. [applause]

Comrades:

Our people's Army entered a new stage of its development as it began to uphold the great sagacious general Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander, and proud results that amazed the world have been achieved for the last two years in building our revolution and revolutionary Armed Forces.

Above all, a remarkable turning point was made in strengthening the People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: The People's Army has been strengthened and developed today to be a revolutionary one-a-match-for-100 armed forces, which has firmly been prepared politically, ideologically, militarily, and technologically, and is fulfilling its honorable duty to protect the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people. This is totally the result of Comrade Kim Chong-il's correct leadership. [applause]

The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander presented it as the basic direction of the army building to strengthen the People's Army as the army of the leader and the party. He analyzed scientifically the trend of the grave situation, in which socialism has recently been frustrated in some countries. Considering it as one of the most important tasks for the People's Army's political and ideological reinforcement to firmly follow the Paektu revolutionary spirit and the indomitable fighting spirit of their heroic elders participating in the Fatherland Liberation War who inherited the Paektu revolutionary spirit, he has wisely led the struggle to realize it.

Inheritance of the revolutionary cause is inheritance of the revolutionary tradition and revolutionary spirit. Only when soldiers of younger generations resolutely protect and brilliantly inherit the revolutionary tradition achieved by previous generations as well as their revolutionary spirit, can the revolutionary army invariably maintain its revolutionary characteristics and firmly succeed to the revolution.

The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander has made it possible to vigorously carry out the work of following the revolutionary spirit and struggling trait of the first and second generations of the revolution while keeping up this work as the party's important political task.

He personally arranged the national meeting of martyrs' families and the national meeting of old veterans for the first time in the history of our country, thus enhancing the role of martyrs' families and war veterans, who are core forces of our revolution. By doing so, he enabled the third and fourth generations to follow invariably the road taken by previous generations. He also led our people to grandiosely build the monument of victory in the Fatherland Liberation War on the 40th anniversary of our victory in the war, a second liberation day, thus enabling them to hand down heroic fighters' feats forever through generations and to resolutely protect and constantly glorify the chuche socialist fatherland, like them.

By doing so, he enabled our People's Army to be filled with the Paektu revolutionary spirit and one-a-match-for-100 fighting spirit through the struggle to follow the first and second generations of our revolution, thus strengthening and developing it to be revolutionary armed forces that purely inherited the chuche blood and guarantee with arms the cause of our party, to which it is boundlessly loyal. [applause]

Under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, our People's Army's honorable revolutionary tradition has been strongly maintained, and single-minded unity in the entire Army has been further consolidated like a rock. Since they were first founded in the forests of Paektu, on the strength of single-minded unity around the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, our revolutionary Armed Forces have victoriously defeated the two powerful imperialist enemies of the United States and Japan, crushed the activities of the antiparty, antirevolutionary factional elements, victoriously made their way through rugged thorny thickets, and honorably defended the party, the fatherland, and the revolution. This traditional single-minded unity in our People's Army has reached its pinnacle when we upheld dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great general and a great human [widaehan ingan], as supreme commander.

The ideological, voluntary, and moral single-minded unity in the entire Army around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is based on our comrade supreme commander's boundless trust and love

for the KPA officers and men. Truly, the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's trust and love for the KPA officers and men is boundless in its width and depth, and because there were such trust and love, our People's Army soldiers have the strong determination and will that, no matter how many times the world may change, they will share the same destiny with the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, the great father [widaehan oboi isin], to the end without a sign of vacillation, and fight for the comrade supreme commander by devoting their youth and lives.

The People's Army officers and men's strong belief and will that they will be boundlessly loyal and filial to the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander are warmly expressed through the letters of loyalty and resolve which our soldiers sent to the comrade supreme commander in recent years and through the reply letters which the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander personally sent to them. The letters of loyalty which People's Army officers and men send to the comrade supreme commander and the reply letters which he sends to them are the most beautiful evidence of the leader's [yongdoja] trust for his warriors and their loyalty to him. This trust and loyalty are a source of invincible power which further consolidates the single-minded unity in the entire Army around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander into kindred ties that cannot be shattered by anything and which defeats tens of millions of enemy soldiers.

The fact that we crushed the enemy's vicious challenge during the semiwar period this year and again displayed the fatherland's dignity and honor throughout the world was the proud victory of the might of our single-minded unity more powerful than atomic bombs. We will win victory today and will do so eternally in the future on the strength of single-minded unity around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. [applause]

The struggle to establish military discipline in the People's Army has been vigorously waged under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, and, as a result, our People's Army has a better look of a regular army [chonggyu kundaero soui myonmorul tojal kachuge]. After considering the issue of establishing revolutionary military discipline and thus thoroughly guaranteeing the People's Army's political and moral purity to be an issue related to the existence of the Armed Forces and the destiny of the revolution, the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander has energetically led the struggle to establish revolutionary military discipline in the People's Army.

Our commanding staff have regarded the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's order as a demand for life and have thoroughly implemented it in the van of the ranks. Through comrade-minded unity and close cooperation with military officers and political functionaries, our commanding staff have brilliantly implemented assigned military and political tasks.

Because the commanding staff has become a standard-bearer of the ranks, and the services of the Army have been properly composed under the collectivist guide of a party committee, the chuche-oriented army-leading tactics, in which the entire Army moves like one under the unitary leadership of the dear leader comrade supreme commander, is thoroughly established in the whole Army. The revolutionary military traits of carrying out the supreme commander comrade's order without even the slightest deviation is also thoroughly established in the whole Army.

In keeping with the demand of the prevailing situation, the dear leader comrade supreme commander has deepened the struggle to establish the revolutionary work and life-style in the whole Army in a bid to cope with the enemies' vicious ideological and cultural infiltration moves. As a result, the KPA political and moral integrity has been more firmly ensured.

Under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, our KPA has been matchlessly strengthened both militarily and technologically. Strengthening the KPA militarily and technologically on the base of firmly preparing the KPA politically and ideologically is a major principle for army building, which has been consistently maintained by the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, with clairvoyant and extraordinary wisdom, has scientifically penetrated the characteristics of modern wars and the enemies' adventurous attempt; has clearly elucidated the direction and method to strengthen all branches of arms and services and the special arms unit of the KPA in keeping with the modern revolutionary war, and has seen to it that the armed equipment of the KPA should be further modernized.

The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander arranged many meetings, such as the second meeting of the KPA Artillery Corps, the meeting for the KPA meritorious combatants, and the meeting of the KPA Engineering Corps; wisely pressed ahead with work to hold meetings; and effected a momentous turn in strengthening all branches of arms and services and special arms units. Our KPA, including all branches of arms and services and special arms units, have prepared themselves to successfully carry out their militant duties.

Military strength is a major composing element in military guardposts. Fortifying and modernizing military guardposts are one of the important conditions for winning a victory in a modern war.

Today, thanks to the untiring and energetic leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, our KPA has grown into the loyal militant ranks, which can devote their lives to fighting for the party, the leader, and the country, and the people. Our KPA has also grown into the resolute protectors of the party and the people and the reliable defenders of the

socialist fatherland, who can successfully carry out any operations and combats with strong offensive and defensive means.

The military parade congratulating the 65th anniversary of the KPA's founding and the military parade congratulating the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War, which went down in our revolution's annals as another immortal chapter, were the grand demonstration of the invincible might of our People's Army, which has been strengthened and developed into an invincible, powerful army because it upheld the great general as its supreme commander. Through those military parades, our Armed Forces gave great confidence to our people and revolutionary people in the world and fearful uneasiness and horror to the enemy.

The invincible might of the People's Army, which is powerfully demonstrating its strength as an invincible powerful army throughout the world is the proud result of the great leadership of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the outstanding military strategist and invincible iron-willed general. [applause]

A new chapter has opened in Army-people relations, as well, because the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was upheld as the supreme commander of the KPA. Unity between the Army and people is one of noble traditions of our revolutionary armed forces and an important source of its invincible might. The respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, who has a firm will to maintain the socialism of our own style to the end and further glorify it, based on unity between the Army and people, presented the militant slogan "Long live the idea on unity between the Army and people!", praised even a trivial good deed in Army-people relations, sent thanks and gifts, and built a beautiful garden of unity between the Army and people in all of society.

At present, with the high consciousness that they are warriors of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and sons and daughters of the people, our People's Army soldiers have the noble beautiful spirit that they do not hesitate to jump into turbulent waters and fires to defend the people's lives and properties even risking their own lives. And, as creators of the people's happiness, they are scoring brilliant feats in difficult fields in socialist construction to implement the party's intention of making our people lead happier lives.

As symbols of our soldiers' spirit of devoted service to the party and people and their warm love, the monumental edifices for the happiness of generations to come which our People's Army soldiers built with sweat across the country will remain brilliant forever in the history of the fatherland.

Sincerely assisting the People's Army by implementing the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander's idea on unity between the Army and people has become a social custom. In this way, the traditional beautiful custom of unity between the Army and people

has been newly glorified. This further strengthens the main forces of our revolution and steps up the might of the People's Army a hundredfold.

Because great Comrade Kim Chong-il [widaehan kim chong-il tongji] was upheld as supreme commander of the KPA, the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style has been strongly defended, and our Republic is displaying its dignity and majestic appearance throughout the world. [applause]

In recent years, the imperialists and reactionaries have regarded as a thorn in the eye our country which is the bulwark of socialism and which has become the lighthouse of hope for progressive mankind. They have more desperately attempted to separate and crush [apsal] our Republic.

In particular, the enemies conducted the adventurous Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise early this year. While babbling about the so-called nuclear suspicion, they forced us to receive nuclear inspections.[ku musun haekuihokul ttodulmyonso uriege kangje haeksachalul kangyohae nasotsumnida] However, the enemies' frantic maneuvers became impotent in the face of the respected and beloved comrade's outstanding and tested leadership and could not prevent the vigorous advance of our revolution.

Indeed, under the serious situation in which unprecedented fluctuations have taken place in the world, our Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has smashed at every step the frantic antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, brought into full play the dignity of the chuche-oriented DPRK, and vigorously advanced the socialist cause, is the born distinguished commander unprecedented in history. [applause]

Even under the difficult circumstances in which the enemies' challenge reached the highest point, the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander vigorously aroused all the party and all the people to create a new speed for the all-out march of our own-style socialism, thereby further strengthening the national economic foundation and improving the people's living standard through the bumper crops this year.

Today when billions of people are suffering from starvation and hundreds of thousands of working people are wandering to find jobs, the miraculous reality, in which all of our people equally live a happy life without worrying about food, shelters, clothing, jobs, study, and medical treatment, is the very fruition of the wise leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. This is the demonstration of the superiority of the socialist system of our own style which supreme commander comrade has defended and glorified.

Truly, the dignity and honor of our fatherland and nation and our people's happiness and future are unthinkable apart from the leadership of the respected

and beloved comrade supreme commander, and victory in the socialist cause is unthinkable, too. The respected and beloved supreme commander is our destiny, the symbol of our happiness, and the banner of victory. [applause]

The era of Kim Chong-il when we will march under the leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, even though today is still an honorable era, will become a brighter, more prosperous era in the future [kyongae hanun choego saryongwan tongjiui yongdoddara naaganun kim chong-il sidaenun onulto yonggwang suroun sidae ijiman apuronun touk challanhago yungsong ponyonghanun sidaero toelgus-simnida]. [applause]

On this meaningful occasion today, with the unanimous loyal sentiment of all of us, I extend the greatest honor and warmest thanks to the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who raises our People's Army into a one-a-match-for-100 powerful army, boundlessly glorifies our socialism, and gives the happiest and most worthwhile lives to our people and People's Army officers and men. [applause]

Comrades: Today, our People's Army has the heavy and honorable task of reunifying the fatherland with guns in the nineties without fail and completing the chuche revolutionary cause, the socialist cause, to the end [tongjidul onul uriinmingundae apenun kusimnyondae kioi chongdaero chogugul tongilhago chuche hyongmyongwiop sahoejuui wiobul kkukkaji wansonghayoyahal mugopkodo yongyeroun kwaobi nasogo issumnida].

If we are to complete the chuche revolutionary cause, cultivated by the great leader, to the end, we must strengthen the People's Army, the party's revolutionary armed forces, by all means.

Only when we strengthen the People's Army, can we crush all challenges of the enemy with revolutionary guns [hyongmyongui chongdaero] and firmly guarantee the honorable Kim Chong-il era.

In order to further strengthen the People's Army into a one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary armed forces, we have to, above all, further strengthen the entire Army's single-hearted unity centered around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. The entire Army's single-hearted unity centered around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is the assured guarantee for an ever victorious People's Army.

All the officers and men of the People's Army should bear the firm trust that our party, Army, socialism, our fatherland, as well as today's happiness, and the bright future exist because of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander. They should also become guns and shells that unaffectedly and plainly uphold the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander as the lodestar of destiny and the pillar of the heart, follow him to the end of the sky, to the end of the land, and

defend the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander with life in any storm, wave, or difficulties as did Comrades Han Yong-ae, Kim Hyok, and O Chung-uk who elucidated the dawning period of our revolution.

The unique leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is the life of the People's Army and decisive guarantee of all victories. The People's Army can maintain the revolutionary character as the leader's [suryong] army and the party's army, and complete its historical mission only under the unique leadership of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

The People's Army officers and men should take the order and instruction of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander and the party's policy as the most just requirements and the demand of life, and should further thoroughly establish revolutionary military discipline with which they would dash forward not caring about water or fire and unconditionally complete to the end at the order and instruction of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander.

Discipline is the life of the Army and an important guarantee for strengthening combat power. Functionaries and soldiers should establish iron-clad military discipline and order in units and subunits, firmly establish regularized appearance, and fully cultivate the virtue of the unity between officers and men, Army and people, and party and (?society) by thoroughly embodying the unit command and management style of the anti-Japanese period and persistently carrying out the work for establishing the trait of file training.

If the fatherland is not reunified, no officer or man or soldier can say that they have fulfilled their duty, and they also do not have the right to die.

The future road of our Peoples's Army which is receiving the wise leadership of the respected and beloved Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the extraordinary military strategist and ever-victorious iron-willed commander, will be filled with only victories and glory. [applause]

Let's all deeply bear in mind the great pride and dignity of highly upholding General Kim Chong-il, the distinguished general of all ages, in the forefront of the revolutionary force, and single-heartedly unite around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander to all the more vigorously fight for the fatherland's reunification and for the completion of the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause]

Long live Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader of our party and our people and the supreme commander of the KPA! [uridanggwa uriinminui widaehan suryong isimyo choson inmungun choego saryonggwansin kimchongil tongji manse] [applause and shouts of slogans]

Attempt To Check Socialism's Development Noted
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GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 22 (KCNA)—Although the imperialists and reactionaries encouraged by the restoration of capitalism in some former socialist countries in recent years continue to resort to vicious moves to check the development of socialism and channel it back to capitalism, their attempts are destined to end in a failure, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

The paper in a by-lined article explains the reason, saying:

It is because their moves go against the law of the development of history and conflict with the aspirations and demands of the popular masses.

The old may wear the veil of the new, and the dying may temporarily look like reviving. But, the old has no future because it is moribund. The restoration of capitalism in some countries is no more than this phenomenon.

The bourgeois restorationists talked as if a shower of gold would come when capitalism is revived. What the restoration of capitalism has brought is, however, extreme social and political confusion, economic ruin, mass unemployment, poverty, crimes and depravity.

Socialism is a noble idea embodying the social attribute of people who want to end exploitation and oppression of man by man and live an equal, independent and happy life.

Although the cause of socialism is undergoing trials, socialism remains the goal of revolutionary parties and the desire of progressive mankind. A typical example is that the declaration on defending and promoting the socialist cause adopted in Pyongyang in April last year has been signed by numerous revolutionary parties of the world.

The popular masses will not tolerate any obstacle to their desire for socialism but destroy it.

Either in view of the law of the development of history or in view of the desires and demands of the people, it is clear that the attempts of the imperialists and reactionaries to check the development of socialism and channel it back to capitalism will end in a failure.

DPRK Socialist Constitution Praised

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[Unattributed talk: "Let Us Further Glorify the Most Superior Socialist Constitution of Our Country"]

[Text] All of our people, who greet today as the day of a constitution, are full of a great dignity and pride in being the people of the chuche fatherland, which has the most superior socialist constitution and, also, of a resolution to further glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style.

On 27 December 1972, 21 years ago today, our people could come to have a DPRK socialist constitution promulgated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with a great excitement and joy. The promulgation of the DPRK socialist constitution—truly, this was a historical event of epochal significance in our people's revolutionary struggle and state building.

Because of the establishment of our country's socialist constitution by the great leader, our people could consolidate our revolutionary power and socialist feats obtained after a harsh struggle and have a legal guarantee for accelerating the chuche revolutionary cause more vigorously.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The newly announced socialist construction is a chuche socialist political charter that fully defines an important principle and task in legally consolidating the great victory and achievement gained by our people from their socialist construction and in brilliantly safeguarding, adhering to, and glorifying their socialist cause.

The working class party, a power organ, must strengthen a national sovereignty and constantly raise its function and role to successfully build socialism and communism. The socialist constitution, as a basic law of the socialist state, is a legal basis for raising the function and role of state and is a powerful means to realize politics by the people's power.

By deeply having an insight into a lawful requirement for the strengthening and development of our state's social system and for the construction of socialism and communism, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created a theory of the chuche socialist constitution based on his noble achievements and rich experiences gained in state and law building and, by embodying this, he drew out the socialist constitution of our country.

Thus, our people could have the most superior socialist constitution as well as a reliable legal guarantee for successfully advancing the socialist cause of our own style.

The superiority of the socialist constitution can be ensured by its revolutionary or people-oriented character. The socialist constitution of our country is the most revolutionary and people-oriented statute. It is, first of all, the most superior constitution that embodies the immortal chuche idea.

The nature and mission of a law is determined by what ideology the law has and embodies as its guiding policy. The socialist constitution of our country is a statute that has the great chuche idea—the people-centered and people-loving ideology—as its guiding policy and comprehensively embodies its principles and fundamental truth.

The socialist constitution of our country defines the chuche idea as the only guiding policy of the Republic and stipulates that the chuche idea shall be comprehensively embodied in all fields of state activities and social life.

The socialist constitution of our country defines various principles of political, economic, and cultural fields

based on the *chuche* idea. It defines all the particulars so that the independent demands of the popular masses—the masters of the state—can be thoroughly implemented in all fields of the development of the state and social life and the collectivist principles be well embodied.

Thus, the socialist constitution of our country has the immortal *chuche* idea as its guiding policy and comprehensively embodies it. This is the source of the superiority and inexhaustible strength of the socialist constitution of our country.

The superiority of the socialist constitution of our country also lies in the fact that it actively contributes to the realization of our revolutionary cause as a mighty weapon for socialist and communist construction. The legal mission of the socialist constitution is that it fulfills its role as a legal weapon of the revolution and construction for the realization of the independence of the popular masses.

The socialist constitution of our country correctly defines the various principles and struggle tasks which should be maintained in the revolutionary cause for the realization of the independence of the working popular masses, the realization of socialist and communist construction.

The socialist constitution of our country defines as law the *chuche* socialist and communist revolutionary theory and strategic and tactical policies, and stipulates the most correct way to accelerate the revolution and construction by organizing and mobilizing the popular masses.

The socialist constitution of our country sums up the tasks and methods to accelerate the man-remaking, nature-remaking, and society-remaking work by thoroughly carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and to successfully occupy the ideological and material fortresses of communism.

The socialist constitution of our country defines it the revolutionary principle in state building and state activities to intensify the state's unified guidance for society, to firmly maintain the class line and mass line, and to resolutely maintain the (?anti-imperialist independent) position, thus providing a firm legal assurance which enables the working class to fulfill its historical cause.

The superiority of the socialist constitution of our country ensures that the working popular masses enjoy their independent rights and that democracy is thoroughly realized in all fields of state activities and social life.

To give firm legal guarantee to the popular masses' independent and creative life is one of the most important duties of a socialist state. This is where the people-oriented nature of the socialist constitution rests. The socialist constitution of our country defines most broadly the popular masses' constitutional rights on the

principle of enhancing their position as masters of the state and society. It stipulates the legal duties of the popular masses so that they may fulfill their responsibility and role as those who are charged with the revolution and construction and comprehensively stipulates practical ways to ensure this.

The socialist constitution of our country solemnly declares that the sovereignty of the Republic belongs to workers, peasants, soldiers, and intellectuals, and gives all the people all the rights so that they can participate freely in social and political activities. At the same time, it enables all the working people to fully enjoy broad democratic rights and freedom in all fields of economic and cultural life, including the right to be employed, the right to receive free education and free medicare, and the right to freely participate in scientific, cultural, and artistic activities.

The socialist constitution of our country, in particular, stipulates that the working people's democratic rights and freedom expands further with the solidifying and developing of the socialist system, thus making clear our constitution's people-oriented nature. Truly, the socialist constitution of our country provided by the great leader is the most superior *chuche* political charter because of its revolutionary nature and people-mindedness, and it is the great socialist statute the justness and vitality of which have been clearly proven through practice. Therefore, our people take great pride in having the most superior and revolutionary constitution that guards the dignity, interest, right, and freedom of the popular masses.

Today, we have a task to thoroughly embody the socialist constitution in all fields of the revolution, construction, and social life to further solidify and develop and add luster to the socialist system of our country. To thoroughly embody the socialist constitution is an important requisite to the successful acceleration of socialist construction and to the solidity and development of the socialist system in conformity with its natural demand.

In particular, under the present circumstances where the imperialists are employing all sorts of maneuvers to viciously criticize socialism and obliterate [malsal] its cause, to thoroughly embody the socialist constitution and bring the superiority of socialism into full play is more important than ever before. All the party members and working people should deeply study and learn the classic works of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, including "The Socialist Constitution of the DPRK," and the legal ideology and theories contained in the historic works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, including "On Intensifying the Socialist Law-Abiding Life," and thoroughly embody them in all practical activities. By so doing, they should continuously solidify and develop the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and more powerfully demonstrate its superiority and invincible vitality.

South Korea

IAEA Said To Inspect DPRK Sites in 2-3 Weeks

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[Text] North Korea and the United States showed great progress in the nuclear negotiations held recently. It seems that the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks will be held in January 1994, and that the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] inspection team will go to North Korea to conduct ad hoc [imsi] and ordinary [tongsang] inspections in two to three weeks at the earliest.

At the recent North Korea-U.S. working-level contact in New York, North Korea notified the U.S. side that if the resumption of the South-North dialogue was not regarded as a precondition in resolving the nuclear issue, it would accept the overall nuclear inspection on seven nuclear power sites the IAEA is requesting to inspect. It was learned that the ROK and the United States tentatively agreed to postpone the resumption of the South-North dialogue until after the IAEA inspection is resumed.

A government official said on 24 December: "At the North Korea-U.S. contact held in New York on the morning of 23 December (ROK time), both sides concentrated on discussing the issue of when to hold the IAEA's ad hoc and ordinary inspections and on when to hold the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks. It seems that they have reached an agreement on this matter."

He added: "The fact that the United States and North Korea are meeting frequently hints that there is no great difference of opinion between the two sides. It is expected that the schedule for the third round of high-level talks will be agreed upon sometime in January 1994."

Thomas Hubbard, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, met Ho Chong, North Korean deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, in New York on 23 December [Korean time] and conveyed the final proposal made by the ROK and the United States on the nuclear inspection issue. It was learned that this proposal in fact accepted the inspection proposal made by North Korea recently.

It was learned that the United States proposed to North Korea that if it received overall inspection of seven nuclear sites and announced that it would resume the South-North dialogue, the United States would simultaneously reveal that it would suspend the Team Spirit exercise and announce the resumption of the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks.

In connection with the third round of North Korean-ROK-U.S. talks, the ROK and the United States had put forth the agreement on the exchange of special envoys of

the South and North as a precondition. However, believing that it would be desirable to hold significant negotiations once the South-North dialogue is resumed, it was learned that the ROK and the United States revised their position and postpone the South-North dialogue until after the international inspection.

A diplomatic source in Seoul said: "When considering the IAEA inspection and South-North dialogue, the IAEA inspection is more important." He hinted that the ROK and the United States regard North Korea agreeing to IAEA inspections as a priority.

DPRK To Hold 'Direct Talks' With IAEA

SK2412052293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0514 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—The United States and North Korea have agreed, after four rounds of unofficial working-level talks in New York, that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Pyongyang will hold direct talks on the issue of full IAEA inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities, informed sources said on Friday.

If North Korea grants IAEA inspectors full access to its seven declared nuclear sites in Yongbyon, the United States will set a date for the third round of high-level Washington-Pyongyang talks on improving bilateral relations and end the joint South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit," bringing the North Korean nuclear issue closer to a solution.

In unofficial working-level talks in New York on Monday and Wednesday, U.S. officials told their North Korean counterparts that they would announce plans to halt Team Spirit and hold the third round of high-level talks if Pyongyang agreed to allow IAEA inspectors into its nuclear facilities, the sources said.

The North Koreans, reacting positively to the proposal, said they would solve the inspection issue in direct talks with the IAEA.

North Korea has coolly reacted, however, to a U.S. demand that it undergo full IAEA inspections of its seven declared nuclear sites, including nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities.

While hinting at the possibility that it will receive full IAEA inspections, it expressed an intention to solve the issue through direct dialogue with the IAEA, the sources said.

North Korea rejected the other demand that it resume talks with South Korea on an exchange of special envoys.

The working-level meetings in New York had made considerable progress in solving the North Korean nuclear issue, they said, and if the IAEA-Pyongyang talks proceed smoothly the U.S.-Pyongyang talks on improving relations will also proceed smoothly.

It is still premature to have rosy prospects, they added.

The United States and North Korea will hold their next high-level meeting in late January or early February if the North Korea-IAEA nuclear talks proceed smoothly, the sources said.

Parties Said Discussing Nuclear Inspection

SK2712055093 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 27 Dec 93 p 1

[Article by Yang Sung-hyon]

[Text] It was learned that North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] are unofficially discussing the issue of inspection of seven nuclear facilities, including a five-megawatt atomic reactor and nuclear reprocessing facilities in Yongbyon, which North Korea reported to the IAEA.

A relevant government official on 26 December revealed it is likely that such a discussion is being held between IAEA's working-level officials and relevant officials at the North Korean Embassy in Vienna.

This official also noted that the IAEA is favorably considering the proposal made by the North Korean side during the 23 December U.S.-North Korean talks in New York, which included permission for a technical team to enter North Korea to replace surveillance equipment; acceptance of inspection of five areas; and inspection of two facilities in Yongbyon, including an experimental reactor.

The affirmative reaction of the IAEA to the North's proposal is the first one since the U.S.-North Korean high-level talks were held in Geneva last July. If the IAEA accepts this proposal, a way will be open for it to continue its surveillance of North Korea's nuclear safeguards.

The visit of an IAEA inspection team to North Korea will likely be realized early next year, at the earliest, according to the result of a U.S.-North Korean working-level contact, which is scheduled to be resumed this week.

This official stated, however, that the visit will be realized on the basis of a U.S.-North Korean agreement during a working-level contact on the issue of moving the North-South dialogue forward and on the date of the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks. He added that if an agreement is reached between the United States and North Korea, official discussions between North Korea and the IAEA will follow immediately.

It was learned that in successive contacts in New York, the United States and North Korea made considerable approaches to each other regarding their views on solution to the nuclear issue.

Observers believe their opinions are being focused on the method of "thorough and comprehensive" resolution,

namely, IAEA's inspection, resumption of the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks, moving the North-South dialogue forward, and suspension of the "Team Spirit" exercise.

Meanwhile, North Korean and U.S. views have become closer on the principle of resuming U.S.-North Korean high-level talks, which have been suspended since last July, around the end of January next year.

A Foreign Ministry official revealed that "suspension of the Team Spirit exercise is the issue on which the ROK will make a final decision, as agreed during the ROK-U.S. summit last October." He said "this issue will be decided according to the progress in the North-South dialogue, which is another precondition for the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks, not according to the entry of an IAEA inspection team into the North."

His remarks reflect our government's due position against the North Korean side's attempt to separate the issue of North-South dialogue from the agenda of the U.S.-North Korean contact. Thus, how North Korea reacts to this will attract people's attention.

It has been learned that the ROK and the United States reached a policy agreement that in the event the IAEA resumes its overall inspection and significant progress is seen in the North-South dialogue, the ROK will announce the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise in January and the third round of U.S.-North Korean talks will be resumed.

Foreign Minister Promotes 'Package' With DPRK

SK2712085293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States may well accept North Korean proposal for "simultaneous steps" and make package concessions even before the next Pyongyang-Washington high-level talks, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Monday.

He slammed down hard that Seoul and Pyongyang should exchange presidential envoys before the next such high-level talks, refuting press reports that South Korea and the United States compromised on toning down the demand to resumption of working-level dialogue.

The remark suggests an unexpected stringent turn on Seoul's part on this demand. Up until October, prevalent view was that South Korea will settle for "meaningful" inter-Korean nuclear negotiations without clarifying that the actual exchange is a precondition.

Describing the current North Korean nuclear situation as a "beginning of an end," Han told reporters he was more optimistic than few months ago that the matter will be resolved.

"The key is justification," he explained. North Korea is willing to accept routine and ad hoc inspection on all of its declared facilities but without appearing that it is

doing so out of obligations as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) member.

North Korea is also willing to engage in inter-Korean dialogue but without appearing that it does so to meet one of the preconditions to next round of high-level talks with the United States, he said.

"We hope that North Korea will be able to find the justifications and accept inspections and inter-Korean dialogue," said Han.

This, he said, would involve a "small package" deal.

Seoul officials are reluctant to go on record, but they say this mini-package deal would simultaneously exchange IAEA inspection on all of North Korea's declared facilities and resumption of inter-Korean dialogue with suspension of South Korea-U.S. military maneuver "Team Spirit" and formal scheduling of next North Korea-U.S. high-level dialogue.

Seoul 'Reviewing' DPRK's Inspection Proposal

SK2712063893 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] In order to secure continuity of safeguards of nuclear facilities in North Korea, the ROK's and U.S. views have moved toward each other regarding the acceptance of the "expanded [hwakdae] inspection plan" proposed recently by North Korea. Accordingly, inspection negotiations will begin soon between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea and the IAEA inspection team will likely visit North Korea in the middle of January at the earliest.

On 27 December, a relevant government official said that "in a working-level contact held recently in New York with the United States, North Korea put forward a proposal that it will accept, first of all, inspection of five out of the seven nuclear facilities demanded by IAEA. However, North Korea said it will discuss a five-megawatt atomic reactor and biochemical laboratory with the IAEA while holding the third round of talks with the United States. Thus, North Korea put forward the proposal of so-called expanded inspections."

This official stated that "it is true that during the North Korean-U.S. contact, North Korea decided to accept overall inspections by the IAEA. However, the issue of inspection procedures remained a pending question, which should be resolved." He explained that "in order to make North Korea completely return to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], we should undertake a step-by-step approach, even if it takes some time. Therefore, we are affirmatively reviewing the North Korean proposal."

It has been learned that during a working-level contact with the United States on 20 December, North Korea noted that it will accept inspection of five facilities. In return for its acceptance, however, North Korea demanded that the United States designate the date of

the third round of high-level talks and announce the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise.

Diplomatic Source: U.S.-North Talks To Resume

SK2612225493 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] A diplomatic source in Seoul reported that it seems the U.S.-North Korean working-level talks, which will be the final negotiations to urge North Korea to accept ordinary [tongsang] inspections and to realize the issue of South-North dialogue, will be resumed sometime early this week in New York.

This source said that at the 23 December U.S.-North Korea working-level contact, the United States accepted most of the demands by North Korea regarding ordinary inspections and the South-North dialogue. Therefore, it seems that there will be a positive response from North Korea soon.

This source continued to say that after expressing its position to the United States, North Korea will start direct negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency to reach a final agreement on the content of ordinary inspections, and there is high possibility that North Korea will propose to the ROK Government the holding of a working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys. This source added that the time for holding the working-level contact may be early next year.

North-South Working-Level Contact Planned

SK2712020293 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Dec 93 p 2

[By reporter Pak Tu-sik from Seoul]

[Text] It was learned on 26 December that regarding the ongoing U.S.-North Korean negotiations in New York, the government plans to propose eventually that North Korea resume a working-level contact for the exchange of special envoys between the North and South under a policy that progress must be made in the North-South dialogue along with progress in the U.S.-North Korean negotiations.

A relevant government official said that U.S.-North Korean negotiations are now being carried out positively, but it is too early to predict if the North Korean nuclear issue can be resolved. Progress must be made in the North-South dialogue for the exchange of special envoys in order for the start of the third U.S.-North Korean high-level talks and for the suspension of the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit exercise. Therefore, the working-level contact between the North and South must resume as soon as possible.

He said that "the government has decided to suspend the Team Spirit exercise when North Korea accepts the ordinary [tongsang] inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency and responds to the exchange of

special envoys," and that "it will either announce or officially notify this to the United States when the North Korean attitude toward the nuclear issue becomes clear."

In fact, the ROK and the United States have relaxed their preconditions that "North Korea must accept the ordinary inspection, the special inspection of its nuclear facilities, and the mutual inspection of the North and South." It has been learned that the government has decided to implement the ad hoc [imsi] or ordinary inspections of North Korea's declared seven nuclear facilities, but it plans to shift the issue of special inspection of the undeclared two facilities, including the nuclear waste material processing site, to the third U.S.-North Korean high-level talks.

CIA Report 'Complicates' Diplomatic Negotiations

SK2712014793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Report by Chang Yong-sop]

[Text] Washington, Dec. 26 (YONHAP)—Intelligence officials' conclusion that North Korea probably has already one or two nuclear bombs takes an unexpected ominous note when the Stalinist state and the United States are showing positive signs to resolving the situation.

The NEW YORK TIMES cited a classified CIA document in its Sunday's top story that the Agency reported to President Bill Clinton North Korea probably has nuclear bombs and other institutions like the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency agree with this conclusion.

The judgment is not based on definitive evidence but on estimation Pyongyang stockpiled about 12kg of plutonium which is enough for one or two bombs.

The CIA report takes one step further what U.S. officials have been saying. CIA Director James Woolsey recently said North Korea has enough nuclear materials to make one or two bombs. Outgoing Defense Secretary Les Aspin said there is a chance North Korea has nuclear bombs but suspended additional production activities while engaged in dialogue with the United States.

The report does say "probably," but the State Department who is in charge of the negotiation with North Korea claims the conclusion is too serious.

Department officials say such conclusion is a "worst-case" analysis, that Pyongyang could not produce enough plutonium to make a nuclear bomb with its backward nuclear technology.

It's yet unclear whether the CIA report is intended to keep the White House fully aware of worst possibilities or is close to the truth, but it certainly complicates the ongoing diplomatic negotiations.

Latest working-level contacts between Pyongyang and Washington are said to have made positive progress with North Korea willing to realow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection on all of its declared facilities.

Some even cautiously predicted that they will be able to open next round of high-level talks sometime in January.

But if the CIA reports turns out to be true, the Clinton administration will have to demand not only that North Korea abandon its nuclear development but scrap whatever it already has.

Nuclear-equipped North Korea will spark a nuclear arms race in Northeast Asia and thwart Washington's global strategy, U.S. officials fear. North Korea may well sell off its weapons to other volatile areas like the Middle East.

Prevailing consensus in the Defense Department and intelligence agencies is that preemptive strike on North Korean nuclear facilities carries danger of nuclear leak in the area and outbreak of war on the Korean peninsula.

Such consensus is pushing the administration for a diplomatic solution.

But the United States is sure to want to dig deeper into North Korea's nuclear suspicion and demand further inspection into undeclared sites believed to store nuclear materials once the IAEA issue is cleared.

Kim Yong-sam Christmas Message to U.S. Forces

SK2512035493 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Dec 93 p 1

["Full text" of Christmas message sent by ROK President Kim Yong-sam to the men and women of the U.S. Forces Korea on 24 December; place not given]

[Text] Officers and enlisted men and women of the United States Forces Korea [USFK].

In greeting the Christmas of 1993, I join all my fellow Koreans in wishing you a joyful holiday and a New Year brimming with hope and happiness.

We realize that you are far from home and family, braving all manner of hardships to serve in this unfamiliar land in the cause of freedom and peace. We, Koreans, are ever grateful for your dedication and sacrifices, and will always remember your invaluable contributions to the security of our land.

In the past year, I met with President Clinton twice, first in Seoul and again in Washington, to strengthen the ties of friendship between our two nations. This has had a very positive and lasting impact on the peace and security of the Korean Peninsula. I am greatly heartened by the ever-closer cooperation between the armed forces of our two countries in the interest of peace and the peaceful unification of this peninsula.

Officers and men and women of the USFK,

Although the Cold War regime has crumbled throughout the rest of the world, the Korean Peninsula still remains as its last and only battle-field. Nearly all former adversaries in the world have been reconciled with each other and are now seeking peace and prosperity together. And yet, there is still no sign of change in North Korea. Furthermore, its nuclear arms development program continues to pose a major threat to peace not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in Northeast Asia in general and the world at large.

I am confident, however, that as long as the Republic of Korea and the United States of America continue to stand together, firm and vigilant against any aggression against us, a spring of peace will soon thaw the frozen land of North Korea.

I am very proud to have you, the world's elite fighting men and women, with us. The hardships and demanding work that you have endured thus far in the cause of freedom and peace on the Korean Peninsula will prove to have not been wasted.

Once more I would like to express my deep appreciation for your dedicated service and wish you and your families an especially Merry Christmas.

UN's Butrus-Ghali Visits South, North Korea

To Convey 'Informal' Message to North

*SK2512014893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
25 Dec 93 p 2*

[Text] United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said yesterday that he will convey an "informal" verbal message from the South Korean government to Northern leaders.

"I have received no message in the sense of a written message but I received a lot of information which will allow me to explain to the North what the real position of the South is," the secretary-general told a press conference in Seoul shortly before traveling to the border village of Panmunjom on his way to Pyongyang.

"You can say this represents a series of messages although it is not formal," said Butrus-Ghali, 71, winding up his three-day visit in Seoul.

He noted that his visit to both Seoul and Pyongyang is a fact-finding mission in the context of preventive diplomacy.

On his preventive diplomacy, he explained, "It does not mean 'preventive of sanctions.' It means preventive of deterioration of the crisis."

He said that he has no mandate from the Security Council and neither had he any requests from any members states of the United Nations concerning the North Korean nuclear issue. "I am acting as part of my duty as secretary-general to promote peace and security."

He said that he could not play a role as any kind of mediator or catalyst unless the two parties agree on the issue.

But he expected a possible role as mediator in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. "I look forward to fruitful meetings in North Korea. I am confident that with patience and goodwill the issue can be resolved in a peaceful manner."

He said, "I collected maximum information about the different factors and on the basis of this I am ready to obtain your role as a catalyst or messenger between the two factors." [sentence as published]

About the purpose of the visit to North Korea, he noted that he will make efforts to promote relations between the United Nations and North Korea, a U.N. member country, as well as to defuse the crisis caused by the nuclear problem.

"I hope to talk with leaders of the North Korean government. I will discuss not only the 'crisis' but also the relations between North Korea and the United Nations. We have offices of the U.N. Development Program in the two capitals to participate in a more active way in different problems related to unification of the two countries as a coordinator," Butrus-Ghali said.

Meanwhile, the U.N. chief will stay in Pyongyang for three days, meeting North Korean President Kim Il-song and other leaders. He is scheduled to fly to Beijing on a trip likely to focus on coordination of the North Korean nuclear issue.

Begins 'Goodwill' Visit to DPRK

*SK2412060993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—U.N. chief Butrus Butrus-Ghali walked across the demarcation line dividing South and North Korea on Friday on his way to Pyongyang for a goodwill visit of peace.

"Christmas is about peace. Peace is the purpose of my visit of goodwill," he told reporters as he prepared to cross the border with his wife and an 11-member entourage.

"The message is a message of peace," he said when asked if he had a Christmas message for North Korean leader Kim Il-song.

The U.N. secretary-general had just finished a three-day Seoul visit, which included talks with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu. Han had asked that he relay the seriousness of international concern on the nuclear standoff and North Korea's obligation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for fullscope inspections.

Butrus-Ghali emphasized throughout that he was visiting the two Koreas as U.N. secretary-general visiting

member states and had no mandate from the Security Council or from either Government of Korea to mediate the nuclear issue.

Seoul officials said they hoped, however, that his personal assessment of the problem through this trip will help if U.N. actions, either mediation or sanctions, become necessary.

Butrus-Ghali crossed the border village of Panmunjom to go to North Korea on a three-day visit finalized only recently. He is expected to meet Kim Il-song and other officials.

He flies out to Beijing from Pyongyang and his trip there is likely to focus on coordination on the North Korean nuclear issue.

Col. Forest Chilton of the U.N. Command led the secretary-general to the demarcation line and Col. Kim yon-ki, secretary of the Military Armistice Commission, was at the other side to receive him.

In the North Korean welcoming crowd was Ambassador-at-large Choe U-chin, a former delegate to the inter-Korean high-level talks.

Butrus-Ghali shook hands with each of the liaison officers from Britain, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, Canada, France and Colombia, and shared greetings with representatives of the neutral nations supervisory commission.

Says DPRK Declines UN Mediation

SK2612030693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 26 Dec 93

[Text] United Nations, Dec. 25 (YONHAP)—[dateline as received] North Korean leader Kim Il-song declined U.N. mediation in its nuclear problem to Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, claiming Pyongyang-Washington talks are making positive progress, U.N. officials said Saturday.

Aides accompanying Butrus-Ghali to his North Korean trip reported back saying the secretary-general met with Kim for 40 minutes.

The North Korean leader described the ongoing nuclear talks with the United States as moving positively and the report quoted him as saying he does not need U.N. intervention right now.

Pyongyang and Washington are engaged in contact to resolve the nuclear problem sparked last March when the communist regime threatened to pull out of the nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Washington sources said North Korea indicated its willingness to realow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections on all its declared facilities but on certain conditions.

Butrus-Ghali crossed the inter-Korean border Friday to visit North Korea after his three-day stay in South Korea.

He told Kim Il-song, as he said in Seoul, that he did not come to Pyongyang with any mandate from the United Nations Security Council or a U.N. member state on the nuclear issue.

He explained that he came on his own volition to find possible U.N. contribution to peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the report said.

The secretary-general expressed hopes for constructive results to the North Korea-U.S. contacts and offered U.N. support to promote reconciliation, it said.

Butrus-Ghali flies out to Beijing on Sunday.

Comments on Talks With Kim Il-song

SK2712095193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0935 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Beijing, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, now on an official visit here, said on Monday he confirmed during his recent visit to Pyongyang that North Korea wishes to resolve the nuclear question peacefully through negotiations and dialogue.

"In my talks with President Kim Il-song, I could also confirm that North Korea hopes to realize unification between the South and the North of Korea in a phased approach," the UN secretary general said.

Butrus-Ghali who has flown here from Pyongyang made the remarks in a press conference held at Hotel Hilton in downtown Beijing shortly before his flight back to New York.

He said that when he met President Kim, they discussed broad-ranging matters of common interest which, he said, included his world organization's plan to extend economic and technical aid to Pyongyang in addition to nuclear and unification issues.

Regarding the inter-Korean question, Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said, "Through my visit, I personally confirmed that the top leaders of both South and North Korea have the political intent of resolving the nuclear question and realizing unification on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way."

Butrus-Ghali toured Japan and South Korea before visiting North Korea. He entered the North from South Korea by way of Panmunjom, the truce village.

The political determination to prevent the deterioration of problems is an affirmative factor, he said, adding this may well represent the political decision to explore coexistence between South and North Korea in a phased approach and embark on a road toward unification.

The UN secretary general said he expects it would be possible to resolve these issues in a peaceful and phased manner through three dialogue channels—South-North Korea, North Korea-United States, and North Korea-IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

He said that South and North Korea can coexist and unify themselves through peaceful efforts. Other factors in this region, too, serve to accelerate peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, he said.

Asked to comment on a recent report of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that North Korea may already possess one or two nuclear bombs, Butrus-Ghali said he cannot discuss this because he said he is not a military expert.

"Korean questions including the nuclear issue should be resolved peacefully through talks between the parties concerned. In this connection, the United Nations will positively support the efforts to resolve them," the UN Secretary General said.

He said Chinese Premier Li Peng and Deputy Premier-Foreign Minister Qian Qichen expressed their support for his visit to South and North Korea.

"In my talks with Premier Li and Minister Qian, I again confirmed that China sticks to the stand that they are opposed to any pressure against North Korea in connection with the nuclear issue and that the best way is to try to settle it through persuasion and dialogue with patience," Butrus-Ghali said.

Vice-Minister Level Officials Reshuffled

SK2712075893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT
27 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 (YONHAP)—The government appointed six vice ministers, two administrators of non-cabinet government agencies, eight vice minister-level officials and the chief of a government-invested organization Monday.

Chief of the Fair Trade Commission in the Economic Planning Board, Han I-hon, was appointed EPB vice minister.

Chief secretary to the prime minister, Yi Hyo-kae was named vice home affairs minister and a professor at the graduate school of National Defense, Chong Chun-ho, was named vice defense minister.

Vice Secretary General of the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification Kim To-hyon was appointed vice culture and sports minister.

Assistant EPB minister for International Policy Coordination Office Kang Pong-kyun was named vice labor minister and Former Senior Presidential Press Secretary Yi Kyong-chae was appointed vice information minister.

Head of the tax systems office of the Finance Ministry, Kim Yong-Chin was named customs administrator and

First Assistant Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim Kwang-hui was named rural development administrator.

Head of the legislation coordination office of the Ministry of Legislation, Pak Song-kyu was promoted to vice legislation minister and Kim Si-pok, a presidential secretary for political affairs, was named vice patriots and veterans affairs minister.

Director general of the Women's Affairs Bureau of the Democratic Liberal Party, Kim Yong-sun, was named advisor to the second state minister for political affairs.

First administrative coordinator of the office of prime minister Yi Hung-chu was promoted to chief secretary to the prime minister and O Se-min, head of the EPB planning and management office, was appointed head of the fair trade commission.

South Kyongsang Provincial Governor Yun Han-to was named head of the central officials training institute and Nam Chong-pan, a secretary to the prime minister for political affairs, was named vice secretary general of the advisory council on democratic and peaceful unification.

Vice Secretary General of the Board of Audit and Inspection Sin Tong-chin was promoted to secretary general of the BAI.

Vice EPB Minister Kim Yong-tae was picked for the post of president of the Korea Land Development Corp.

Vice National Unification Board Minister Song Yong-tae and 17 other vice ministers, and administrators of 12 non-cabinet agencies, including National Police Agency Chief Kim Hwa-nam, and Kim Si-hyong, head of the administrative coordination office at the prime minister's office, were retained.

The vice-ministerial reshuffle aims to continue the government's reform drive, strengthen expertise and administrative ability, and raise competitiveness, Government Administration Minister Hwang Yong-ha said.

The government appointed Cho Hae-yong, assistant home affairs minister for planning and management, mayor of Taegu city.

U Myong-kyu, vice mayor of Seoul, was appointed governor of North Kyongsang Province while Yi Sang-yong, former vice construction minister, was named governor of Kangwon Province.

The government also appointed Pak Tae-kwon, vice culture and sports minister, governor of South Chung-chong Province, and former mayor of Kwangju city Ku Yong-sang as governor of South Cholla Province.

Kim Hyok-kyu, presidential secretary for justice, became governor of South Kyongsang Province, while Assistant Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Minister for Planning and Management Sin Ku-pom was named governor of Cheju Province.

Yi Won-taek, assistant Seoul mayor for waterwork's facilities, replaced U Myong-kyu as vice Seoul mayor.

DPRK's Negative Economic Growth Reviewed

*SK2512033893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0307 GMT
25 Dec 93*

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 25 (YONHAP)—North Korea is expected to record a negative economic growth for the fourth consecutive year in 1993, the target year of its Third Seven-year Plan.

The Workers' (communist) Party admitted at a meeting of its Central Committee in early December that the Third Seven-year Plan failed to achieve its major goals.

In 1992, North Korea's gross national product was estimated at 21.1 billion U.S. dollars and its per capita income at 943 dollars.

The North Korean economy fell 3.7 percent in 1990, 5.2 percent in 1991 and 7.6 percent last year and is estimated to suffer a sharper fall this year.

The shortages of energy and industrial materials are blamed for the negative economic growth in North Korea.

At end-1992, North Korea's electric power production was 24.7 billion kilowatt-hours against the goal of 100 billion kilowatt-hours.

In 1992, North Korea produced 1.79 million tons of steel, less than one fifth of the goal of 10 million tons, and 178,000 tons of nonferrous metals against the 1.7-million-ton goal.

The textile industry also failed to achieve its production goals last year: Yarn production reached 42,000 tons against the 225,000-ton goal and cloth production 17 million meters vs. the 1.5-billion-meter goal.

North Korea is said to have been suffering from food shortages since 1991. The foodgrain shortage in 1992 was estimated at 1.24 million tons: The demand was put at 6.5 million tons and the supply at 5.26 million tons including the 4.43-million-ton production in 1991. The shortage in this year is much severer, because the production fell to 4.27 million tons last year while this year's demand rose to 6.58 million tons.

To fill the shortage, North Korea is said to have imported Chinese grains for 74.1 million dollars and U.S. farm products for 200 million dollars during the first half of this year.

North Korea's rice and corn production in 1993 is estimated to fall 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively,

due to the cool summer that hit Northeast Asia. As a result, North Korea will sustain a grain shortage of at least 2.5 million tons next year.

The Third Seven-year Plan envisaged a 3.2-fold increase in foreign trade, but North Korea's foreign trade has been on the decrease since the peak of 5.24 billion dollars in 1988.

In 1992, North Korea recorded a two-way trade of 2.47 billion dollars, less than 70 percent of the 1988 record and down 4.4 percent from 1991. Exports fell 3 percent from the previous year to 920 million dollars and imports plummeted 5.2 percent to 1.55 billion dollars.

North Korea's trade with China in the first half of 1993 amounted to 430 million dollars, up 39 percent from the same period of 1991, while the trade with Russia in the first four months of the year rose 40 percent from a year earlier to 220 million dollars.

Inter-Korean trade in 1992 amounted to 210 million dollars on an approval basis and 170 million dollars on a customs clearance basis.

South Korea has emerged as the fifth largest trade partner of North Korea, following China, Japan, Russia and Iran. It accounted for 11.2 percent of North Korea's foreign trade in 1992.

Inter-Korean trade in the first 10 months of 1993 fell 5 percent from a year earlier to 170 million dollars on an approval basis. Carrying increasing weight in the inter-Korean trade are South Korea's exports of intermediate materials for processing into finished products in North Korea and for reimport. South Korea's such reimports increased from 36,000 dollars in 1991 to 970,000 dollars in 1992 and further to 2,608,000 dollars in 1993.

North Korea has established various laws designed to lure foreign investment in the country since 1992 in a bid to stimulate its ever-sagging economy. Under these laws, foreign companies are encouraged to invest in the Najin-Sonbong free trade area.

According to the North Korean delegation to an international workshop on the Tuman River development program held in Seoul in November, North Korea has added an area of 124 square kilometers to the Najin-Sonbong free trade area and plans to develop the area with foreign investment in three stages until 2010.

This suggests that North Korea is eager to have foreign investment by opening a quite limited area of the country to foreign companies. But political uncertainty, the nuclear arms development program and the leadership's passive attitude toward economic reforms in North Korea pose stumbling blocks to foreign investment.

Burma

Junta Offers To Protect Mons Against Karens

*BK2512110493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT
25 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] RANGOON, Dec 25 (AFP)—The Burmese military has offered protection to Mon villages on the Thai-Burma border which Karen rebels threatened to destroy if Mon insurgents entered peace negotiations with Rangoon.

Deputy military intelligence chief, Colonel Kyaw Win, told AFP that encouraging headway had been made with two armed groups in the Kayah and Mon states bordering Thailand.

Concern over threats from the Karen National Union (KNU) to set Mon villages on fire if the Mon insurgents negotiated separately with Rangoon had kept the Mon from taking the final step, Kyaw Win said.

"We have guaranteed protection for these villages," he said.

He also disclosed contacts with a Kayah group which had responded to Burmese military ceasefire initiatives. [passage omitted]

According to Kyaw Win, peace talks with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in northern Burma are a foregone conclusion.

"The next to last step" will now take place without KIA leader Brang Seng who is recovering from illness, Kyaw Win said.

Brang Seng is under treatment in a hospital in Kunming, southern China, for a brain tumor. Independent reports reaching here said recovery was doubtful for the foreseeable future.

Kyaw Win said meanwhile that 10 camps were still open for any students still with the All Burma Student Democratic Force (ABSDF) who wanted to come home.

"All that any student wishing to return need do is to send word to the Myanmar [Burma] embassy in Bangkok. Once we know who he or she is, we will try to find their parents and arrange for them to wait and welcome the student at any one of the camps," he said. [passage omitted]

Khin Nyunt, Party Return From Indonesia

*BK2512144993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 25 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] At the invitation of Mr. Hartarto, coordinating minister for industrial and trade affairs, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], has paid a visit to Indonesia. He returned to Rangoon by special plane at 1650 this evening. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Kyaw Ba, minister of hotels and tourism; Transport Minister Lt. Gen. Thein Win; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw; Information Minister Brig. Gen. Myo Thant; U Soe Tha, minister of communications, posts, and telegraphs; and responsible personnel from the respective ministries who accompanied Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt returned to Rangoon with him.

Cambodia**NADK Denounces Government's Planned Offensive**

BK2712024493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Dec 93

[“Press communique of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, NADK, spokesman;” dated 25 December; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The communist Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese puppets, and an alliance will launch a large-scale offensive against the people and Democratic Kampuchea [DK] forces starting at the end of December 1993.

I. According to reliable informed sources, the two-headed government plans a large-scale offensive against the people and DK forces starting from the end of December 1993. Reports on the offensive were circulated after it was heard that talks had taken place to find a solution in line with the king's five-point suggestion.

II. The large-scale offensive will be conducted by the two-headed government under the command of the alliance and the communist Vietnamese aggressors, especially the communist Vietnamese state power, which has assumed 100 percent control in rural areas and 99 percent in Phnom Penh. This is because:

A. They oppose national reconciliation starting from scratch;

B. They object to the initiative of King Norodom Sihanouk, who wants national reconciliation so the people can achieve peace and solve the present and serious national and social problems;

C. They continue to remain stubborn and want to solve the Cambodian problem by furthering the communist Vietnamese war, which has continued since the end of 1978; and

D. All these actions stem from the state power of the communist Vietnamese's puppets pursuing the communist Vietnamese strategy and policy of occupying and swallowing Cambodia. These actions are all undertaken by the masters—the unscrupulous alliance and the communist Vietnamese—and their proteges, who have been against the Cambodian nation and people as well as the throne, the national reconciliation plan, peace, (?Democratic Kampuchea), and self-determination.

Cambodians never want this to happen; they have no money to continue the war. But the communist Vietnamese aggressors have military and civilian state power from top to bottom and nearly 4 million in old and new manpower in Cambodia. The alliance pays out money to further inflame the war. They are all assassins and warmongers paying lip service to peace, democracy,

human rights, humanity, and so on; in reality, their hands are stained with the Cambodian nation's and people's blood.

III. It is they, who have further inflamed the war and who must alone assume all responsibility before the nation, people, and history of Cambodia.

IV. The Party of Democratic Kampuchea, the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and the Cambodian nation and people, like the peace-and justice-loving countries of the world, still want national reconciliation and peace. Peace can be restored and every national and social problem can be solved only by achieving national reconciliation in compliance with the king's five-point suggestion. This will allow Cambodia to rebuild and to restore the economy and the living conditions of each family.

V. The entire Cambodian nation and people in the countryside, provinces, Phnom Penh, and outside the country are all opposed to the communist Vietnamese war of aggression and the continuation of war in Cambodia. The entire Cambodian nation and people want national reconciliation and peace. They cannot allow, on any account, the communist Vietnamese to further inflame the war at will nor can they allow the communist Vietnamese to hold 99 percent of state power in Phnom Penh and 100 percent in rural areas.

[Dated] 25 December 1993

[Signed] NADK spokesman

Khmer Rouge Support Sihanouk Peace Proposal

BK2712124293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 27 Dec 93

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Excerpts] PHNOM PENH, Dec 27 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge said it fully supported King Norodom Sihanouk's proposal for national reconciliation, but offered little evidence to indicate an end was in sight for Cambodia's ongoing conflict, according to a letter released here Monday.

“I strongly believe that if the process suggested by the king goes smoothly, all Cambodian leaders will give concessions to each other and trust each other. Then the basis for national reconciliation can be achieved,” the faction's nominal leader Khieu Samphan said in a letter to the king.

The letter related to his clandestine meeting December 17 with government co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh. [passage omitted]

No timeframe was mentioned for implementing the king's proposal and the recalcitrant faction's leader warned against being pressured.

"If any factions were forced to implement any preconditions to do this (achieve national reconciliation) then negotiations would be unsuccessful," he said. [passage omitted]

When asked to explain the [25 December] radio broadcast in light of Khieu Samphan's letter, a Khmer Rouge official in the capital replied: "These are the old words that we have been using (on the radio). Nothing has changed."

But he refused to clarify which views reflected the faction's current stance.

Information minister Ieng Muli denied the government was planning a major offensive, saying any military movements were of a defensive nature.

"But if talks failed, the battlefield option may become inevitable," he said.

Thai Military on Khmer Rouge, RCG Reactions

BK2412032593 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Dec 93 p A 4

[Excerpts] The Cambodian government [RCG] is preparing to launch its biggest offensive yet against the Khmer Rouge along the border with Thailand to coincide with the dry season, a Thai military source said yesterday.

"The operation will start during the New Year festival," the source told The Nation. [passage omitted]

The source said it was possible that Khmer Rouge guerrillas may try to seek refuge in Thailand.

"Fighting between the government and the Khmer Rouge takes place every dry season.

"But there is good cause to believe that this year will be the strongest one yet," the source said. [passage omitted]

Government and military agencies in Chanthaburi held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss plans for a likely influx of guerrillas and refugees.

Anuchart Tomomsak, a Provincial Defence authority official, said the border defence forces were ready to help protect Thai residents of the area in case the fighting spills over into Thai territory.

Meanwhile, the discovery of the controversial arms cache in Chanthaburi had affected the Khmer Rouge who now realized it would be much harder to get arms secretly through Thailand, the military source said.

The faction has expressed resentment that the Thai military has claimed over 1,500 tonnes of heavy weaponry uncovered by police, the source said.

"Khmer Rouge coordinating officials, who have regular contact with the Thai military, were recalled to their bases. They did not say why," the source said.

The Thai army said the weapons were sent by third countries to the Cambodian "nationalists" through Thailand, but the arms now belonged to Thailand.

"[The Khmer Rouge] are exasperated because they think we will possess the arms.

"The fact that we stop transferring the weapons has really affected them," he said.

The National Security Council (NSC) has suggested that the prime minister make a conciliatory gesture to Cambodia after the Thai government was strongly criticized by Phnom Penh's state radio for helping the Khmer Rouge.

A government source said the suggestion followed Premier Chuan Likphai's order to the NSC to find an appropriate response after Phnom Penh used its media to attack Thailand.

"The Cambodian government's policy is to seek help from Thailand, but they have criticized us behind our backs," Chuan was quoted as telling the NSC.

The council, in consultation with the Foreign and Defence ministries, has already come up with responsive measures.

The details will be presented at an NSC meeting today.

Two solutions that the NSC asked the government to urgently adopt are to assure Cambodia that Thailand supports the democratically-elected government and to prove that Bangkok had no policy to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs, which means no support for the Khmer Rouge.

Other measures include using diplomatic channels to ask Phnom Penh to stop publicly attacking Thailand and to clarify with the private sector and the media Thailand's position towards its neighbouring countries.

But if the measures fail to improve the situation, Thailand would have to adopt what the NSC called "aggressive diplomacy".

The council acknowledged that Thailand had a negative image as some groups of business people had gained notoriety for exploiting its neighbours, including Laos, Cambodia and Burma.

On Nov 4, Cambodia radio criticized Thailand for adopting a "two faced policy" toward Cambodia.

The NSC said the broadcast was caused by suspicions Cambodia has towards the Thai government. Phnom Penh wanted to point out that Thailand should persuade its private sector to help develop the war-torn country.

**Ranariddh on Khmer Rouge Meeting,
Negotiations**

*BK2712061993 Phnom Penh National Voice of
Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
25 Dec 93*

[Speech by Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, made at the closing ceremony of a seminar on administrative and police structures held in Phnom Penh on 25 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Khmer Rouge issue is one of the national problems that we must solve (?step by step). This is because it involves national reconciliation, national unification, peace, and (?national independence). It involves not only national unity but also our territorial integrity.

I must tell all of you that recently I went to meet—that was the best thing I could have done—with His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan after receiving an order by telephone from his majesty the king (?and receiving the approval of) second prime minister H.E. Hun Sen from Singapore. His majesty suggested to me that as Cambodians, we should do our best (?to reach national reconciliation) so as to put an end to the war, to the bloodshed between the Cambodians. This is because all our grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts, [words indistinct] do not want to see the conflict go on and continue to shed Cambodian blood. That was the most correct and proper comment by his majesty the king, although he will no longer intervene in leading the nation.

To be in line with this comment and, in my opinion, with the desire of our Cambodian people, including the intellectuals and all compatriots, I agreed to meet H.E. Khieu Samphan, although he addressed me in his letter as the Prince Krompreah chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party. I have done my best on that point. So, I went to see him. Please do not ask me where. I went to see him because in his letter to me—I have already sent a copy of it to (?the second prime minister)—he said that he fully accepted the five-point suggestion of his majesty the king. The king wrote this five-point suggestion in his essay dated 21 November 1993. These five points include:

1. An announcement of a cease-fire, especially by the Khmer Rouge group, which the king calls the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK].
2. The merging and dismantling of the Democratic Kampuchean forces [words indistinct].
3. The handing over of the territories of Pailin, Preah Vihear, and so forth to our nation.

If this PDK, as the king terms it, agrees to implement these three points, the royal government, as a compensation [preceding word in French]—a reward—should hold discussions with the it; and if the above three points

are implemented fully, it should give the PDK positions as members of the royal government and an advisory role, including the role of the king's adviser.

H.E. Khieu Samphan, in his letter, [passage indistinct] the five-point basis. His majesty said (?I should go). Hearing about the five points, I rushed there [words indistinct]. He began by saying that the discussion was between our two parties, between the representatives of our two parties or between representatives of the patriotic movement—[chuckle] that same old word quadripartite came up again. But I told H.E. Hun Sen [words indistinct] because he also regards the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] as a patriotic movement [chuckle]. But that was impossible. I said, your excellency, how can you say that? First of all, even if I or the FUNCINPEC representative could come to terms and settle the problems with you, the other parties, namely, the CPP and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP], would not agree. Second, we cannot split the parties from the royal government. So, you can see that he showed his insincerity as soon as he sat down. So I brought out his majesty's 21 November letter—his essay—written in French and told him that the five points were in there. You said that you accepted three points (?and we accepted) two points.

I told him that the royal government, which has by now stopped using the word PDK and used only the word Khmer Rouge group, was satisfied with just the aforementioned three points that you accepted. We always follow his majesty's advice, so we also accept the word PDK, as the king calls your group. However, that follows with the word "but". However, as his majesty has stressed, clearly there should be the PDK and the RGC, that is, the royal government of Cambodia. How could it be possible with your excellency continuing to persist on that same old thing that has been [words indistinct]. So, if you agree to accept this, you should accept all—that is, the PDK and the RGC. He said that is impossible, your highness; all these problems should be settled first before going to the question of the RGC. I said: No, your excellency, do not play this game. His majesty has given a very clear order on this matter. You should just say you do or do not accept it. If you do not accept it, there is no need for us to talk. He said: Then we should not mention representatives or any committee. Let us just say that it is a working group, a patriotic working group. No, not that same old thing again. So I said let us just describe it simply as a working group.

But this working group must be a truly democratic one, a royal government's working group. He said that is not yet clear. Therefore, we have not reached any conclusion on those three points, we agreed on just that point. He also proposed his two representatives, namely, Chhuon Prasit and Tep Khunnal. As for our side, he said it would be good to have six members—two from the CPP, two from the FUNCINPEC, one from H.E. Son Sann, and one from H.E. Sak Sutsakhan [words indistinct]. That is what he said. So I said that was their internal affair; one should not meddle. He was simply interfering in others

people's affairs by saying that—that is, it would be good to have representatives from H.E. Son Sann and H.E. Sak Sutsakhan. But that was alright. I then [passage indistinct] about the territory and so on.

After that I went to see his majesty in order to report to him on this matter. But before I arrived, Khieu Samphan had already presented a seven-page report to the king. In those seven pages, he said he agreed to follow all of the king's suggestions. However, he did not mention the points with which I said he disagreed. The seven-point report described national reconciliation, national reunification, and so on, but there was no mention on the opening up and handing over of the zones.

I reported to his majesty, but please do not... [change of thought] his majesty told me not to tell anyone about it. [Ranariddh turns to ask someone in the audience] How many hundreds of you are here? [a man's voice in the audience is heard to answer: 700]. He told me not to tell anyone, but there are here 700 persons before me. [words indistinct] please help me to find a formula so as to... [change of thought].

His majesty has said that he will not interfere in this matter and that it is up to the royal government to decide on it. He spoke to me about this only in his capacity as a father giving an advice to his son. His majesty was of the opinion that this working group should have representatives from the PDK and representatives from...[Ranariddh speaks to someone in the audience] what television are you from? What? Speak louder [words indistinct].

Alright then, his majesty has suggested that this working group should comprise the representatives of the PDK and [words indistinct]. That was only advice from the king father to his son. There is nothing involving the royal government, for it is only the representative of Prince Krompreah the first prime minister of the royal government. So, we can see from this point that his majesty is really very (?healthy) and much cleverer than I. Can you see that? His majesty's formula is really very good. He does not want to mention the royal government, so he proposes Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh not as the chairman of the FUNCINPEC but as the first prime minister of the royal government. Although it is without H.E. Hun Sen, without the representative from another party, still it is the royal government [applause]. I thanked his majesty, returned, and wrote [to Khieu Samphan].

I met with Samdech Chea Sim, reported to him, and presented him with this formula. I must tell you that Samdech Chea Sim gave me his full support. Later on I met the second prime minister. The second prime minister [change of thought] I cannot tell you this. I had already sent him [a letter]. But the second prime minister's answer is still not known [words indistinct].

Now listen: in my letter to Khieu Samphan, I, first of all, presented him the formula—the suggestion from the king father to his son—and told him to think about it.

Second, I informed him that the basis of this discussion—not negotiation; I have made it very clear that the royal government is not going to hold negotiations—is to be those three points. Do not say that we set preconditions. We have not set any preconditions because the PDK has already accepted, in writing, these three points. Therefore, it is not the so-called precondition [preceding in French]. This is so that the (?students) will not say that we set preconditions again. It is not so, because Khieu Samphan had already accepted those three points [words indistinct].

In his essay, his majesty said that the three points should be fulfilled first before the discussion can be held. But I said that we had agreed to hold discussion on the basis of the three points. What does this mean? It means the cessation of the fighting, the dismantling [of the Army], and the handing over—not just an opening up—of the zones. That is the second point.

The third point that I want to make clear to all of you here is that if we open up the royal government... [change of thought] I myself cannot decide on the opening up of the government. This is because it involves the amendment of the Constitution. However, in my opinion, if we want the Khmer Rouge to accept and implement these three points, that is, to dissolve the Army, dissolve the movement, and hand over the zones, it is quite necessary to make the amendment. But I cannot do it myself. It is up to the royal government and the National Assembly. However, if the above three points were achieved, it would be great; thus we should make the amendment to give them the positions of co-ministers. This is because it will certainly lead to the end of the bloodshed and restore the oneness of our Cambodian nation and territory—as the Constitution states: Cambodia is one [three preceding words in French].

But I have not yet raised this matter with his excellency the prime minister [Hun Sen]. I have only given him my opinion.

In my latest letter to him, I informed Khieu Samphan that, while he was holding talks with me, his group had launched offensives against not only the Khmer Royal Armed Forces but in particular against the former ANKI [National Army of Independent Cambodia—FUNCINPEC] units. He talked, but he also attacked. He said he attacked the ANKI more than anyone else, such as in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey, and so forth. So I told him clearly that, except for me, no one in the royal government wanted to talk to him. Therefore, he should think hard about this. This is true. When I told H.E. Hun Sen about this, he said: What your highness said was correct. I do not want to talk to that man. So he should give a little thought to this.

You might be asking what the conclusion of all this is. The conclusion is that of a great leap, I told him that the Cambodian nation as a whole, which has representatives in the National Assembly and the royal government, cannot allow any Cambodian group to establish any

autonomous zone that threatens the unity of Cambodian territory and leads to the division of the country. Such an act not only runs totally counter to our nation's Constitution, but it also constitutes a crime by this group against our entire Cambodia.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen: His majesty the king, clearly defined in the Constitution as the person who safeguards and guarantees national unity, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, has taught me that in no way can we Cambodians allow any Cambodian group to split off Cambodian territory. [applause] He said that as Cambodians we must seek all peaceful means of settling this problem. However, after all the peaceful means have been used, we should do anything to absolutely eliminate this attempt to divide our sacred Cambodia. Thank you. [applause]

I would like to ask the Lord Buddha's Triple Gems and all the sacred objects to please bless all excellencies and gentlemen who truly serve the country and have always been loyal to our revered nation and motherland and to his majesty the king. May all of you enjoy successes and all the best in fulfilling the historic mission, following in the footsteps of his majesty the king, together with all our Cambodian people so as to bring back to our Kingdom of Cambodia its prominent honor and prestige within the framework of national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as in the time of the Sangkum Reas Niyum—the king father's era. Thank you your excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen. [applause]

Heng Samrin Accompanies Chea Sim to Beijing

BK2412024093 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Summary from poor reception] Samdech Chea Sim, acting head of state and chairman of the National Assembly, left Phnom Penh at 1000 on 23 December for Beijing to pay a courtesy visit to His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of Cambodia, who is receiving medical treatment. Accompanying Samdech Chea Sim were His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin, personal adviser to His Majesty the king; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, deputy prime minister of the Royal Palace [title as heard] and minister of agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and fisheries; and H.E. Tol Loah, secretary general of the National Assembly.

Seeing the delegation off at Pochentong Airport were Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia; H.E. Hun Sen, second prime minister; H.E. Loy Sumchheang, first vice chairman of the National Assembly; H.E. Son Soubert, second vice chairman of the National Assembly, and several other senior government officials.

FUNCINPEC on Sin Song, Chakraphong Return

BK2412102293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Dec 24 (AFP)—Both the radical Khmer Rouge and the royalist FUNCINPEC party have reacted angrily to an attempt by a Phnom Penh party to reinstate as MPs two hardliners who resigned their seats to lead a secessionist movement.

"Which law or which constitution could allow the traitors who seceded with seven provinces to be members of parliament?" asked a statement released Friday by the Khmer Rouge quoting "students at the Phnom Penh university".

One of those at the centre of the controversy is Prince Norodom Chakrapong—half brother and bitter foe of co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh—who was deputy premier of the former communist Phnom Penh regime.

The other is former National Security minister Sin Song. The two were leaders of a short-lived secessionist movement in protest at the Cambodian People's Party's loss in U.N.-supervised polls in May. [passage omitted]

Although Prince Chakrapong recently said he wanted to re-enter parliament only to serve the interests of the nation, co-premier Prince Ranariddh has openly spoken of the conflict between the two princes and said his half-brother would like "to see him dead." [passage omitted]

FUNCINPEC MPs said the move to reinstate the two was unconstitutional.

An MP for the Royalist FUNCINPEC party said this rule indicates a person who resigns is barred from coming back.

"We will fight against this," he said.

In the Khmer Rouge statement, the students said the attempt to rehabilitate Prince Chakrapong and Sin Song demonstrated once again that the government was still under the control of the leaders of the former Vietnamese installed Phnom Penh regime—despite the fact that Prince Ranariddh is co-premier and FUNCINPEC is the largest party in the coalition government.

"The government just does whatever they (the leaders of the former Phnom Penh regime) want," the statement said.

By appointing "traitors, killers and corrupt officials" as MPs, the government was "eating the flesh, drinking the blood and sucking the marrow from the Khmer people's bones," the statement said. [passage omitted]

Hun Sen Reaffirms All Business Contracts

BK2612021293 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 26 Dec 93 p 4

[Text] Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen yesterday told Thailand to listen only to the words of both prime ministers of Cambodia to prevent possible misunderstandings over business contracts between the two countries, according to Chinnawut Sunthonsima of the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Chinnawut said Mr Hun Sen raised the issue and expressed concern over recent reports of an unstable policy on foreign business investment in Cambodia during a 45-minute meeting yesterday. Mr Hun Sen was apparently referring to Thai news media reports of a minister's comment about Cambodian businessmen being angry with Thai investors.

"He denied the reports and asked them (news media) to listen to him and First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh only," Mr Chinnawut said.

The Cambodian leader also reaffirmed that his government would honour all business contracts, including those made with the Khmer Rouge.

Thai Official on Investment, Aid Possibilities

BK2512070793 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0415 GMT 25 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 25 Dec (AKP)—Mr. Keat Chhon, state minister in charge of rehabilitation and development, held talks with Mr. Chinnawut Sunthonsima, minister attached to the Thai prime minister's office, in Phnom Penh on 22 December.

Mr. Keat Chhon profoundly thanked the Thai Government for its contribution to the Cambodian peace process and its over \$8 million in aid for the 1992-1993 period.

After informing his guest of the government's plan of action, the economic situation, and the rehabilitation and development program, Mr. Keat Chhon requested the Thai side to assist Cambodia in its rural development project in Pursat Province and in the domains of health and education.

For his part, Mr. Chinnawut Sunthonsima briefed the Cambodian state minister about the investment situation in Thailand and held that the Cambodian-Thai cooperation on investments had improved.

By the way, he reiterated that the Thai prime minister would pay a visit to Cambodia in January next year during which the issue concerning Thai investments in Cambodia would be raised.

The Thai Government will provide 30 million baht in aid, or \$1.2 million, for promoting the sectors of health and education and rural development in Cambodia.

Sihanouk Appoints Provincial Governors

BK2412070093 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0412 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Dec (AKP)—New governors for the provinces in the country, including Sihanoukville, have been officially appointed in a decree signed on 18 December by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia.

These are the first appointments of provincial officials since the UN-supervised general elections.

The royalist party FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] holds 10 provinces and Phnom Penh city and the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] nine provinces. Sihanoukville goes to the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP).

Here is the list:

1. Kompong Cham: Hun Neng [CPP]
2. Kandal: Chak Sarik [FUNCINPEC]
3. Battambang: Ung Sami [CPP]
4. Prey Veng: Tep Nunthari [FUNCINPEC]
5. Takeo: Su Phirin [CPP]
6. Kompong Speu: Neav Sithong [FUNCINPEC]
7. Pursat: Ros Sreng [CPP]
8. Siem Reap: Toan Chay [FUNCINPEC]
9. Kompong Chhnang: Phouk Samoeun [not further identified]
10. Banteay Meanchey: Duong Khem [FUNCINPEC]
11. Kompong Thom: Chieng Am [CPP]
12. Sihanoukville: Theam Bunsrun [not further identified]
13. Svay Rieng: Hok Langdi [CPP]
14. Kampot: Kun Kimteng [FUNCINPEC]
15. Kratie: Nu Phoeung [not further identified]
16. Stung Treng: Li Su [not further identified]
17. Koh Kong: Rung Phlamkesan [CPP]
18. Monduliri: Ho Sok [not further identified]
19. Ratanakiri: Kham Len [CPP]
20. Preah Vihear: Mean Sarin [FUNCINPEC]

Sihanouk To Publish Documentation Bulletin

BK2412064193 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0400 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 24 Dec (AKP)—His majesty Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, recently addressed a message to his compatriots.

Here is the full text of the message.

My beloved and respected compatriots:

I am honored to inform you of the following:

First, I regularly and daily read Cambodian newspapers. Thanks to these papers I am very up to date with your big, medium, and small problems and difficulties.

Second, I always ask the RGC [Royal Government of Cambodia] to take into account the just needs, demands, or complaints of our people, including our peasants, teachers, students, and other male and female citizens who are in great difficulties.

I know that our RGC itself has great difficulties because the general situation, particularly the financial and economic situation, of our country has been catastrophic since 18 March 1970 and that there is little foreign interest to really or efficiently help us to overcome these difficulties.

However, there are problems that the RGC and the National Assembly undoubtedly would be in a position to solve to your satisfaction.

Third, to help you to have a lot of influence on the RGC and the National Assembly, who are the people's servants, I have

decided to publish regularly in my documentation bulletin important articles from the Cambodian press.

In so doing, some Cambodian personalities and dignitaries would not be pleased with me; however, I hope that they understand that the king, having no power to govern the country, has the duty to help the people, their government, and their assembly to understand one another better and to solve together the problems of the nation and the people. To this end, the publication of some important articles of the Cambodian press in my BMD [monthly documentation bulletin] is useful. The BMD will gladly publish the eventual corrections sent to it by our national authorities or other personalities or dignitaries.

Fourth, on the occasion of the international new year, I wish you all, beloved compatriots, affectionate and ardent Buddhist wishes of longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Indonesia

Military Chief on Movement To Undermine Democracy

BK2412073093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0712 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 24 (AFP)—Indonesian Armed Forces Chief General Feisal Tanjung has said there were signs that certain sides were bent on undermining the country's democracy and warned of preventative measures, press reports said Friday.

The REPUBLIKA daily quoted Tanjung as telling a meeting of the nation's security coordinating agency Bakorstranas, that there were signs factions wanted to undermine authority of the lawful government.

"The claims of those various groups have developed and start to encroach into and touch state symbols. All these cannot be ignored and there are needs for immediate preventative measures," Tanjung said.

A spate of student demonstrations in several Indonesian cities, protesting for various causes, have already led to 24 arrests. Authorities have also said that those detained will be brought to justice.

The arrests have also in turn, sparked other protests by students in Java to demand their release.

Tanjung said that according to his evaluation, the demonstrations have resulted in worrying impacts and excesses.

He called on officials to be good in reading out signs, trends and aspirations in the society. He also said officials, including security authorities, in handling these protests or demonstrations, should not result in other claims and aspirations.

"Do not fall into engaging in repressive actions which will only make the government's position difficult," Tanjung said.

Minister Denies Interference in PDI Congress

BK2412094693 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 18 Dec 93 p 31

["Excerpts" of interview with Home Affairs Minister Yogie S. Memed by Linda Jalil in Jakarta on 10 December]

[Excerpt] [Jalil] In the current rift within the PDI [Indonesian Democratic Party], the government is seen as trying to impose its will and interfere in the party's internal affairs. What is your view?

[Memed] As an official in charge of promoting political life in the country, the home affairs minister must of course understand what is going on. As we must promote political life, we must get involved within the party. But if our involvement is viewed as imposing our will, I do not think

such a view is correct. Few people believe that the government likes to impose its will. The fact is that the government likes to give political parties chances to develop themselves.

[Jalil] Can you give an example?

[Memed] The government has assigned the PDI caretaker [preceding word in English] team to hold the extraordinary congress in Surabaya. One hour before the congress ended at midnight on 6 December, the team sent a letter requesting assistance from the government. After I returned to Jakarta, I received another request stating that there were still certain things which must be settled. Of course I have great concern for the party because my greatest priority lies with the survival of the PDI itself.

[Jalil] You were said to have instructed regional chiefs of the Directorate General of Social and Political Affairs to attend the special congress in Surabaya and exert their influence on the congress participants. Don't you think this is political maneuvering?

[Memed] I never ordered them to go to Surabaya. They went because of their high sense of responsibility. Being responsible officials, they wanted the special congress to proceed smoothly. This is indeed their responsibility.

[Jalil] In your speech to open the special congress, you openly called for an electoral college system in the election of the PDI chairman. Was this aimed at preventing Megawati [daughter of late President Sukarno] from assuming the post?

[Memed] This is something else that people have misunderstood. I did not say the voting system was wrong. Being followers and upholders of Pancasila democracy, however, we should first use the consultative and consensus system to elect a new chairman. If this cannot be done, we can use the voting system. What really happened, however, was different to the point that the government appeared as if it had appointed an electoral college.

[Jalil] Is the government worried at the prospect that Megawati's leadership will pose a challenge to Golkar [Functional Group] and threaten Golkar's single majority in the next general election?

[Memed] There is no reason to think that way. I see no connection between the two.

[Jalil] When are you going to see Megawati and her friends?

[Memed] The earlier the better. I am waiting for the right time.

[Jalil] What did President Suharto say when you, along with the minister-state secretary and coordinating minister for political and security affairs, went to see him?

[Memed] The president agreed that I should summon all groups within the PDI and listen to their views. Therefore, I said earlier that the government would listen to all views expressed by these groups. The Megawati group and other PDI groups should be asked what they really want. [passage omitted]

Laos

'Utmost Effort' in U.S. MIA Operation

BK2412150493 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 23 December, the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported the results of joint survey and excavation operations by the Lao-U.S. technical teams at the sites of plane crashes to search for remains of American servicemen missing in action during past wars.

Authorities in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Press Department said that in order to comply with the humanitarian concept and policy of the Lao Government toward the issue of American soldiers missing in action during past wars and to make the 1994 Lao-U.S. cooperation plan effective, the teams of Lao and U.S. technicians have carried out their second joint operations in the provinces of Savannakhet, Saravane, and Sekong from 4 to 20 December. The operations were aimed at jointly conducting surveys, collecting information, and doing excavation work in the areas where airplanes crashed. In the operations, the technical teams from both countries excavated two points in Savannakhet Province—Point 1643 and Point 1719. They conducted surveys on 16 of 36 cases proposed by the U.S. side in Savannakhet, Saravane, and Sekong Provinces. In these operations, the teams collected remains, identification badges, pilot equipment, pieces of aircraft, and other materials. All these items have been sent to Hawaii for further theoretical proof and research.

The teams also together explored sites of air crashes in order to collect as much useful data and information as possible. The operations were not as successful as expected due to unfavorable weather conditions during the period, despite the utmost efforts by both sides. This was because the operations were carried out within 10 kilometers of the Lao-Vietnamese border.

Moreover, the teams of Lao, U.S., and Vietnamese technicians also held their third regular consultations on their joint operations at a Lao-Vietnamese border area. They exchanged views and information concerning joint operations between technical teams from all three countries. The consultations proceeded in an atmosphere of good understanding from start to finish.

Foreign Minister Sees Thai Border Delegation

BK2412042093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, received a delegation of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Vientiane on the afternoon of 23 December. The delegation is currently on a visit to the LPDR. The purpose of the Thai delegation's visit is to attend a meeting of the Lao and Thai joint border committees, which was held in the capital. The Thai

border committee delegation is led by Surin Phitsuwan, deputy minister of foreign affairs and concurrently chairman of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee.

The meeting and talk between guest and host proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and good-neighborly friendship. Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat welcomed the visit by the Thai delegation to attend the Lao-Thai joint border committee meetings. He assessed the meeting as one which brings about the further strengthening of long-standing relations of fraternal friendship and noted that it contributes to efforts to resolve, at an early date, the remaining Lao-Thai border problem in the areas connecting Na Banoi Canton of Laos' Boten District, Sayaboury Province, and Bothat Precinct in Chat Trakan District, Phitsanulok Province, of Thailand. This meets the aspirations of the peoples in the two areas of Laos and Thailand.

On this occasion, the head of the Thai delegation expressed thanks to the Lao foreign affairs minister for the warm welcome. He also reiterated the determination to further work in coordination with the Lao side to settle the remaining border problem in the immediate future.

Leaders Thank SRV Counterparts for Greetings

BK2412044393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] According to a news report from the Foreign Affairs Ministry on 21 December, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of state; and Comrade Saman Vignaket, chairman of the National Assembly of the LPDR, have jointly sent a message of thanks to Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of state; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister; and Comrade Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly of the SRV, Hanoi.

In the message, our Lao party and state leaders, on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, the government, the National Assembly, and Lao people, expressed sincere thanks to comrade party and state leaders of Vietnam, and through them, to the CPV Central Committee, the government, the National Assembly, and fraternal people of Vietnam for the greetings that the Vietnamese leaders have conveyed to them on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the LPDR. Our Lao leaders also expressed firm conviction that the relations of friendship, special solidarity, and all-around cooperation between the two parties, two states, and two peoples of Laos and Vietnam will be increasingly developed for the benefits of the peoples of the two countries and in the interest of world peace and cooperation.

On the same occasion, Comrade Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs, has also sent a message of thanks to Comrade Nguyen Van Cam, minister of foreign affairs of the SRV.

SRV Province Delegation Visits Houa Phan

*BK2312135793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Text] On 18 December, a delegation from the SRV's Thanh Hoa Province headed by (My Chanh), deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the

Thanh Hoa Province People's Council, paid a friendship visit to Houa Phan Province. During the visit, the delegations from the two provinces held a consultative meeting and assessed economic and cultural cooperation between the two provinces during 1993. The two sides pledged to continue cooperation in this field in the coming year on the basis of strengthening the special relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam.

Philippines

Bomb Explosions in City of Davao Reported

San Pedro Cathedral Explosions

*BK2612134693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT
26 Dec 93*

[Text] DAVAO, Philippines, Dec 26 (AFP)—Three powerful explosions ripped through the San Pedro Cathedral in this southern Philippine city Sunday during a packed post-Christmas mass, killing at least four people and wounding more than 100 others, police said.

Police said the explosions, which occurred almost simultaneously at about 6:20 p.m. (1020 gmt), caused pandemonium among some 3,000 Roman Catholic churchgoers present. Some of those hurt were injured in the stampede.

A fourth explosive device was found beside a pew near the altar and was detonated by bomb experts.

Davao police chief Superintendent Rogelio Abaday said that four people were killed, including 15-year-old Rachel Lu who died on the spot, and that 119 others were wounded, many seriously. He declined to comment on the suspects or any possible motive.

Restituta Plete, a candle vendor, told AFP said she was standing with her father and husband, Roberto, on the cathedral steps when they heard the explosion and saw a blinding flash of light.

Plete and her husband were wounded but her father, 51-year-old Thomas Juliano, was killed. Tears welling in her eyes, she said doctors told her that her husband's feet might have to be cut off.

"I don't know what I will do now. We don't have any money. I'm appealing for help," Plete, in a local hospital, said.

Police said two of the explosions were apparently caused by homemade bombs and were attempting to verify witness reports that the third blast was caused by a grenade hurled by a youth who then fled.

The first bomb exploded five rows from the altar, the second near the parking lot at the rear. The third, believed to be the grenade, exploded in a middle row of the church.

"I was seated on the third pew from the altar when I heard a loud explosion," one of the casualties Sarah Sapun, 27, said from her hospital bed. "Immediately we ducked for cover. My husband covered me and my four-year-old son." Her husband was also wounded.

"I am grieving over what happened," said a shocked Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, still clutching a child's slipper he had picked up.

In the blasts' aftermath debris such as bags, slippers, shoes and seats littered the church and outside.

Residents living near the downtown cathedral, which is near police headquarters, also panicked.

Some clambered atop passing mini-buses to get away from the scene while others ran for safety or sought cover.

Abaday ordered stepped-up police patrols in the city and all exits were sealed to prevent the suspects from escaping a police dragnet.

Cathedral Blasts Toll Updated

*BK2712064493 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English
0230 GMT 27 Dec 93*

[Text] At least nine people, including a young girl, were killed and 119 wounded when three grenades exploded inside a cathedral during the evening mass, on Sunday in Davao City, in southern Philippines. Police said the explosions ripped through the Roman Catholic San Pedro Cathedral inside the church in Davao City. [as heard] Another device failed to explode and was defused. Police said the attack appeared to be the work of an organized group, but were unable to say who might be responsible. Father Leonardo Dublan said he was officiating the mass when he saw what looked like a grenade rolling down the aisle towards him. The said device exploded in front of the altar and was immediately followed by another in the lobby of the church and the third in the side aisle. Pandemonium broke out as people stampeded to reach exits or [words indistinct] in the path.

Bombing in Muslim Mosque

*BK2712055293 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network
in Tagalog 0500 GMT 27 Dec 93*

[Text] Another bombing incident occurred at dawn in a Muslim mosque in Davao City. The incident was allegedly the work of two men riding a motor bike. The two men reportedly threw an M-203 grenade. There were no reports of anyone killed or injured at the scene. The incident happened at about 3:30 AM. Government authorities cannot determine if the incident is related to another grenade throwing incident, which happened at a cathedral also in Davao City.

Ramos on Peace Process, Terrorism in 1993

*BK2712113393 Quezon City PTV-4 Television Network
in English 0638 GMT 27 Dec 93*

[Weekly news conference by President Fidel V. Ramos with unidentified domestic and foreign correspondents at Malacanang Palace in Manila—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Question] With the apparent reluctance of the CPP-NPA [Communist Party

of the Philippines-New People's Army] leaders to leave their foreign base, how will the government deal with the CPP-NPA problem locally?

[Ramos] We are maintaining, by the way, our communications with the NDF [National Democratic Front] and this is under the supervision of Ambassador Howard Dee, chairman of the government of the Republic of the Philippines panel dealing with the NDF. We'll have some announcements for you tomorrow regarding these continued initiatives on the part of our panel under my direction.

As far as the local leaders who have signified their dissatisfaction with the leadership of Chairman Joma [Jose Maria] Sison, well, that is an internal party matter within the CPP-NDF-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front-New People's Army]. But as I said yesterday, this disappointment is a reflection on the failure of the CPP's party program launched 25 years ago.

[Question] Sir, do you have any feedback on why Muslim terrorists in Mindanao are targeting the Christian population there in some areas?

[Ramos] We do not know yet, we have no clear indications as to who are the perpetrators in the Davao City and the Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental grenade throwing incidents. The police, as of about noontime when I got in touch with Undersecretary Aguirre, do not have any definite leads yet but they are intensifying their investigation and manhunt. The leads would presumably come from the victims themselves, but too many of them are still too unstable or too seriously wounded to be able to give a clear picture of what happened in their vicinity.

I am also informed that Mayor Duterte of Davao City is working very hard also to get to the truth of the matter. Of course his first obligation is to take care of the wounded and the families of the dead victims. And for this purpose he has opened up the drugstores in Davao City with the instruction that the city will pay for any request for medicines from among the families of the dead and the injured. [passage omitted]

[Question] Good afternoon, Mr. President. The year is ending. How would you assess 1993?

[Ramos] Better than the others.

[Question] Would you say [changes thought] what would you say are the best achievements?

[Ramos] Please look at our five priority programs. What were these?

First of all, political stability, peace and order, and social cohesion and unity. This was done in 1993, and among the measures we undertook to make this possible, of course, were the peace process; the two summits—first, to establish a common legislative-executive agenda, and the second one, the bigger one, was the people's multi-sectoral economic summit where we agreed on what

priority programs to undertake. And then, the economic recovery and economic growth program. Here again, I think it is well known that on policy reforms we opened up the telecom industry, we got a new charter for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas [Central Bank of the Philippines], we were able to push through several revenue-producing and revenue-enhancement bills although this effort is still going on up to 1994. We were also able to provide impetus to the development of some 15 growth centers both for agriculture and industry or a combination thereof, foremost of which was Subic. Plus, our regional RICs and RAICs [expansions unknown] all the way down even to the southern Philippines—General Santos City, Davao City, the Cagayan-Iligan Corridor, and of course Cebu and the northwest quadrangle in Luzon.

The third is, as you recall, the alleviation of the power shortage and improvement of infrastructures. The brownouts in Metro Manila have largely disappeared, if not totally disappeared, and we continue to work on providing an adequate electric power supply for all consumers by the middle of 1994. Then we have our initiatives to upgrade our infrastructures, especially roads, bridges, the Light Rail Transit System, and again communications, including ports and harbors.

What are the highlights here? The unraveling of the long-pending legal issue involving the PNCC [Philippine National Construction Corporation], and now they are able to enter into a very doable initiative for the Metro Manila toll route starting from Alabang well into the center of Metro Manila out to the Manila North Expressway in Bulacan. That's being done with initially an Indonesian Group, although there are other groups that are also interested in various components and features of that project. The C-5 [circumferential 5 road] is already very visible and we are only blocked by the Pasig River Bridge, as well as the junction at Katipunan Avenue, Novaliches.

Then we have the modernization of the Philippine National Railway. The southern line is being worked on. Unfortunately, there have been some disruptions because of Monang and Ninang. These are typhoons, by the way. Going to the north, we have at least three proponents to do the one between Tutuban and Clark. Tutuban, in fact, has already been privatized to the Goco Group, which is a Philippine and Singaporean consortium. The so-called six taipans who formed the Asia Emerging Dragon Association or company likewise are committed to studying that investment project. We have also offered for BOT [Build-Operate-Transfer] many portions of both the Manila and the south expressways.

I will not mention anymore the power plants because you are familiar with that.

The first program is the protection of the environment. After a long time, the decision has been made to close down Smokey Mountain as a garbage dumping site. And

the program is on to convert that into a modern community with housing for the residents, job generation opportunities for them, and expansion of the Manila North Harbor. We have also gone into the implementation of long-delayed solid waste management programs. These go into the landfill transfer or the solid waste transfer station in Las Pinas to the landfill in Carmona. We're developing the landfill in San Mateo together with an access road from the Quezon City side to that place.

We have also declared various watershed areas as what we called IPAs, Integrated Protected Areas under our NIPAS Program or National Integrated Protected Areas System. We have also energized the community plus government to clean the Pasig River, as well as to clean and green our communities all over the country and have launched a program for the cleanest and greenest towns, municipalities, and provinces in the whole country for 1994.

We have also gone into the beginning of a lead-free kind of fuel to reduce air pollution, etc. etc. [20-second

passage indistinct due to interference] ... can be utilized for the upgrading of salaries within the bureaucracy.

We have also put behind bars at least four abusive mayors who have been charged in court, and they're either behind bars or they are out on bail but charged with some very grave offenses. These include some people in uniform.

Part of streamlining the bureaucracy as well as an important component of the first program of peace and order, we launched Oplan Paglalansag [Operation Dismantle]. With the putting under government control of some [6-second passage indistinct due to interference] ... percent of which are serviceable [3-second passage indistinct due to interference] ... and that program will continue.

In addition, based on our certification, the death penalty bill was passed with the very ready cooperation of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and so forth and so on.

Thailand

Government Rejects Cambodia's Claim on Arms

BK2412035393 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English 24 Dec 93 p A 1

[Excerpts] The government yesterday snubbed a Cambodian minister's demand that Bangkok surrender to Phnom Penh a 1500 tonne arms cache accidentally discovered by police early this month.

Reuter reported from Phnom Penh yesterday that Cambodian Information Minister Ieng Mouli wants the huge weapons stockpile handed over to the Cambodian government.

However, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said the weapons did not belong to Cambodia.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and National Security Council Chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit said the arms cache would be returned to "the original owners", not to Phnom Penh.

According to Reuter, Mouli was quoted by the newspaper Reasmey Kampuchea (Brightness of Cambodia) to have said Thailand "must surrender the arms cache to Cambodia".

"According to my personal opinion, Thailand has to give those arms to the Cambodian government," he said, according to the paper. It is the first time a senior government minister has publicly called for the arms to be handed over. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Prasong yesterday reiterated that the weapons should be returned to the original owners. The foreign minister said the Army would not object.

Prasong said the Army had since removed the weapons from the Chanthaburi warehouse and was keeping them under close guard.

Chuan said he had not seen the Reuter report.

"But Cambodia is not the owner of the weapons," he said.

National Security Council Chief Charan said he had not received the report either, but he said the weapons had to be returned to the original owners as the Cabinet had resolved.

"The return will be carried out by the Foreign Ministry and in line with the law," Charan said.

Despite the government leaders' rejection of the Cambodian minister's demand, Foreign Ministry acting spokesman Rawi Hongraphat said Phnom Penh could still submit to the ministry a list of weapons it wanted to claim from the Chanthaburi stockpile.

Phnom Penh could identify what type or category of weapons it laid claim to and wanted handed over.

The Foreign Ministry would then forward the list to the military, which would decide whether the weapons really belonged to the Cambodian government or not.

"However, I personally believe that the war weapons should belong to the third countries that supplied them, via Thailand, to Cambodia before the signing of the Paris Peace agreement in 1991," Rawi said.

Thailand is waiting for the third countries to submit a request for the weapons. We are only their temporary keepers and will return them to the real owners if requested." [passage omitted]

Navy Chief on Modernization, PRC Technology

BK2612012693 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English 26 Dec 93 p A1, A2

[Text] The Royal Thai Navy will push ahead with its modernization programmes [to] ensure a balance of power with its neighbours, according to Navy Commander-in-Chief Adm [Admiral] Prachet Sindet.

Adm Prachet said building a fleet [of] frigates, acquiring submarines and constructing new bases in southern Thailand are among top priorities to boost the country's naval defence capability. "Our mission is to maintain power balance vis-a-vis our neighbours. Such power balance is essential in any political bargaining," Adm Prachet told *THE NATION*.

He said there are still volatile regional spots where countries are contesting territorial rights.

Adding more frigates to the naval fleet is one of the most important tasks facing the Navy, he said.

The four new frigates already in commission are Chinese-built. An additional two will be delivered by China next year.

Adm Prachet said the cost advantage was the most attractive feature of the Chinese vessels. "At the price we pay for four Chinese frigates, we can get only one from Europe," he said.

But he admitted that the weapons systems which come with the Chinese frigates cannot match the European ones.

The admiral, who became Navy chief in October this year, said he is pursuing his predecessors' still unfulfilled plan for the Navy to build its own frigates.

"Having a ship-building capacity is a prerequisite for a strong naval force," he said.

While the Navy has started laying the groundwork for future domestic shipbuilding, Adm Prachet said lack of funding and expertise are the biggest impediments. Government support was needed in introducing shipbuilding courses at the university level.

"Eventually, the private sector will have to step in with their technology and funds. The Navy alone cannot possibly carry such a heavy burden," he said.

Adm Prachet said Thai naval engineers and mechanics are now receiving on-the-job training in ship-building in China as part of the package for the frigates.

Besides building the frigates, the Chinese also share their technology with the Thai Navy through training of personnel. "In fact, Thai Navy personnel are actually working on the two frigates the Chinese are building for us," he said.

Submarines have been on the Navy's shopping list for years, but Adm Prachet believes that they now have become a priority. "With some of our neighbours already in possession of submarines, or in the process of acquiring them, we need to catch up in order to maintain a balance in defence capability," he said.

The Navy has set up a committee to study the types of submarines it needs. "I believe we should be able to have our own submarines in five years," he said.

But again, Adm Prachet, said the time-frame is dictated by the availability of money. He said the Navy has received indications of interest in providing submarines from several countries, including the Netherlands, Germany and Russia.

Submarines are among a range of weapon systems the former Soviet Union has offered to the Thai armed forces. But the Navy has yet to show serious interest in any of them, he said.

The Navy's defence capability will receive a big boost with the arrival of its first carrier, Chakkri Narubet, which is being built in Spain. The Navy plans to buy US-made short take-off AV-8 Harrier attack aircraft to be deployed aboard the carrier. The fixed wing aircraft are to be decommissioned by the Spaniards, but approval is needed from the US Congress before they can be transferred to a third country, he said.

"There could be some lobbying going on in Washington because some other countries, notably India, are also interested in getting the aircraft," he said.

One of the Navy's long-term plans is to set up a naval base at Krabi in southern Thailand's western coast to defend the southern seaboard. It also eyes Nakhon Si Thammarat and Satun as potential sites for other bases facing the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

"The one planned for Krabi will probably be as big as the Sattahip naval base, but its urgency depends on how soon the southern seaboard will get going," he said.

Japan, DPRK Rice Purchases Discussed

*BK2412041193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
24 Dec 93 p 21*

[Text] Japan has placed a new order for 200,000 tons of Thai rice to be delivered in January-February next year.

Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said the 100% rice would be sold to Japan for \$450 per ton. The previous price for the same rice was \$420 per ton.

Dr Amnuai said Thailand had exported 463,000 tons of rice to Japan. Japan produced 7.5 million tons of rice this year but demand amounted to 10 million tons.

With limited stocks of only 30,000 tons, Japan has to import more than two million tons from all rice-producing countries for consumption, and the conclusion of the world trade talks meant the country had to open its rice market.

Dr Amnuai said Japan had never before opened its rice market to any country and its government did not want to cause problems for rice farmers.

Japanese people have to pay six times the world market price for their rice.

Higher taxes collected from consumers will be used to set up a fund to assist farmers. This, he said, would enable their farmers to hold onto their standard of living after the market was opened.

Asked whether the export of more rice would cause problems because Thailand's production was expected to decline due to water shortages, Amnuai said Thailand had to export 45 million tons.

Although production is expected to decline, there is still an oversupply in the local market.

"The slight decline of 500,000-600,000 tons is not much and we can adjust our stocks to meet the demand," he said.

He said the rice exports would benefit the country's economy.

"Selling rice to Japan gets good prices and exports are paid for in cash," he said. But Thailand will continue to maintain its market shares in other export markets.

Dr Amnuai said North Korea bought rice through the Marketing Organisation for Farmers without passing through the Commerce Ministry. But there were problems with the rice sale and the MOF has already cancelled its contract with North Korea.

He said North Korea brought Thai rice to resell in other markets, thus creating damage to Thailand. The MOF used its own judgement to cancel the contract. North Korea was seeking recompense for the move, he added.

MOF director Niphond Wongtrangarn denied reports that the MOF had given North Korea \$5 per ton under

the table to not come to take the 100,000 tons of rice. "It was a rumour intended to damage the MOF," he said.

He said the MOF did not have enough money to pay for such expenses and did not believe exporters who were contractors with the MOF to deliver rice to North Korea would do it, as they would gain nothing.

He will explain the issue to the National Rice Policy Committee which will meet today. The committee is chaired by Dr Amnuai.

Bank Chief on Possible Currency Devaluation

BK2612020093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 26 Dec 93 pp 1, 3

[By Somphon Thaphanachai in Phatthaya]

[Excerpts] A major devaluation of the baht may be unavoidable if the country's trade deficits are allowed to continue to grow at an alarming rate, M.R. [royal title] Pridiyathon Thewakun, president of the Ex-Im Bank warned yesterday.

He told a seminar on the country's 1994 import, export and trade deficit, organised by the Commerce Ministry's Business Economics Department, that the problem could lead to the country's economic crash.

Thailand's export growth has risen steadily at an impressive rate of 10 per cent a year because of close cooperation between the public and private sectors, but trade deficits have also widened.

The gap was not felt initially because much of the imports were for re-export industries.

But the problem has become more evident and it is time that all those involved looked at it seriously or a major devaluation of the currency would be inevitable. [passage omitted]

The country's economy could suffer seriously if foreign capital started flowing out and the world's economy suddenly turned unpredictable such as in the event of a sudden and major adjustment of interest rates, M.R. Pridiyathon said.

In this situation, Thailand could only devalue its currency in order to survive, he said.

Thailand has suffered a huge trade deficit because its exports manufacturing industries rely on more than 50 per cent foreign parts. Such industries include ball bearings, jewellery, computers and electronic chip manufacturing, which create little value-added benefits locally and carry a slow capital recovery rate.

Rising labour costs in Thailand make this type of labour-intensive industry no longer attractive as investors will seek cheaper labour elsewhere to maintain their profit margin.

M.R. Pridiyathon suggested that agencies involved turn to promote industries which consume higher local content, for example certain agro-industrial products such as sugar, canned pineapples, rubber wood, coffee and soy bean processing.

Although some of these agro-industrial products still face marketing problems he believes Thai investors have the ability to overcome them and later make their investment profitable. [passage omitted]

He suggested it was time the country seriously looked at the light and heavy machinery industries as this type of investment would enhance technology transfers. Without expansion into this area of investment, the economic base built through the first three industrial phases would suffer.

But to expand into light and heavy industry, the country must have solid steel and petrochemical industries. The Government must provide support for these two basic industries.

The country must also adjust its investment attitude from manufacturing-selling to manufacturing-selling and further investing, M.R. Pridiyathon said. [passage omitted]

Official: Baht Devaluation Unlikely Soon

BK2712012193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Dec 93 p 1

[Excerpts] A Bank of Thailand [BOT] official denied yesterday that there is any likelihood of a baht devaluation in the foreseeable future.

"The exchange rate is not an issue," said Dr Bandit Nichathawon, deputy director of the central bank's Economic Research Department.

The baht is well-supported by foreign exchange reserves that are sufficient to cover seven months of imports, and by the competitive prices of Thai exports, he said.

Thailand's deficits have been declining, and the central bank is also focusing its monetary policy on avoiding economic instability, he added.

Dr Bandit, who is one of the bank's key analysts, was speaking to the BANGKOK POST in response to comments made here on Saturday by M. R. [royal title] Pridiyathon Thewakun president of the Export-Import Bank.

M. R. Pridiyathon warned that a baht devaluation "or worse" could be forced on the Government in the next few years if trade deficits continue at their present level.

This could happen, he said, if the current account—the balance of trade in goods and services—remains in deficit at about seven per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), and if a realignment of interest rates causes capital to flow out of the country.

"His 'if' is a big 'if,'" Dr Bandit said. [passage omitted]

Dr Bandit said that even if the capital flows out, the effect should not be serious because reserves were already adequate before this year's rapid inflow. [passage omitted]

Dr Bandit pointed out that Thailand's deficits are not constant as M. R. Pridiyathon suggested, but are currently enjoying a downward trend. [passage omitted]

Dr Bandit argued that the downward trend is likely to continue, partly because the Bank of Thailand's priority for 1994 is to keep domestic demand under control in order to avoid inflation and keep the current account improving. [passage omitted]

Dr Bandit also pointed out that exports have been growing at close to 18 per cent this year, with inflation at only 3.2 per cent. This, he said, shows that exports continue to be priced competitively.

Organization To Resume Rice Talks With DPRK

BK2712084593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] The Marketing Organization for Farmers, MOF, will resume rice talks with its counterpart in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan says the Committee on Rice Policy and Measures agreed to let the Marketing Organization for Farmers continue the suspended export of 100,000 tons of rice to North Korea. He said the amount of rice export, worth U.S. \$185 million, was suspended in August this year when North Korea delayed the shipment. Later, Thailand could not sell rice at the agreed price because the rice price in the market was rising. The deputy prime minister says that in the new round of rice talks with North Korea, the MOF will not ask the world rate of rice price, but it will add the cost for storage during the suspension period to the agreed price. He says this time the two sides must identify responsible agencies in North Korea to be Thailand's partners. Thailand will also ask North Korea to refrain from reexporting Thai rice to other countries.

Parliamentary Body Opposes Burma in ASEAN

BK2712012593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] The House Committee on Justice and Human Rights has urged its parliamentary counterparts in other ASEAN nations to oppose Burma's reported move to apply for membership in the regional body.

The panel called on parliamentarians in other ASEAN nations to push their governments to set conditions to be met by Burma before its application for ASEAN membership is accepted.

The call was made in a letter sent by committee chairman Nipon Wisityutthasat early this month to parliamentary committees on justice and human rights and on international affairs in four ASEAN countries.

The three conditions are the immediate and unconditional release of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners, the cessation of political repression and violations of human rights against ethnic minorities, and a guarantee of peace and safety for all ethnic groups.

The letter said the committee was disappointed to see the voices of the Burmese people silenced and ignored by the Burmese junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), following the 1990 general elections won overwhelmingly by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

The SLORC has also used forced labour, rape, forced relocations and executions in a "secret ugly" war it has waged against ethnic groups along its borders, Mr Nipon wrote.

Suthin Noppaket, a member of the committee, said the call was prompted by information his panel received from international human rights organisations recently that Burma is seeking admission to ASEAN.

Any application by Burma should be opposed because its military regime has violated human rights and for committing brutalities against the people, he said.

Fund To Aid Indochina, Burma To Be Set Up

BK2612165493 Bangkok TNA in English 0800 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Bangkok Dec 21 (OANA-TNA)—The Thai Government has planned to set up a special Indochinese Development Fund in the country to encourage economic growth in the region, a senior Finance Ministry official said Monday.

Somchai Ruchupan, chief of the Fiscal Policy Office said most of the money will come from existing aid presently being channelled through the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The fund aims to help Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma develop their countries with low interest loans and other measures, he said.

Somchai said the IMF has agreed to help establish the project in Thailand for the benefit of neighbouring countries in Indochina.

He added the plan will not affect Thailand's current status as a recipient of aid from more developed countries and instead helped enhance the country's role in the region through the channelling of development funds to neighbouring countries.

As for preparatory steps to set the planned fund, he said his office is studying the framework for the establishment and the conditions to be required of recipients countries.

The first step will be to draw up legislation formally establishing the regional development fund, he said.

At the present time, Thailand gives aid to other countries via the Extra Budget Structure Affect Fund (ESAF) of the IMF, which requires member countries whose economic conditions have improved to help less developed countries.

Commission With Cambodia To Be Established

*BK2412043393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
24 Dec 93 p 8*

[Excerpt] Thailand and Cambodia will establish a joint commission as an umbrella agreement for future cooperation between the two countries, an informed source said yesterday.

The source said the agreement was expected to be signed during the official visit of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai to Cambodia scheduled for January 12-14, 1994.

"Both governments have worked on the joint commission. The issue was also discussed during the visit of Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri," the source said. [passage omitted]

Committee Meeting Focuses on Lao Border Dispute

BK2412053893 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Thai-Lao Joint Border Committee is being held during 22 and 24 December 1993 in Vientiane, the capital of Lao People's Democratic Republic. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Surin Phitsuwan says the committee has made an attempt to find internationally recognized legal and historical evidence to determine sovereign rights along the border between Thailand and Laos. He says this meeting focuses on land rights claims by each side because other matters were dealt with in the previous meetings already.

He says the Thai-Lao controversy over different border claims has not created tension. The meeting is for both sides to exchange views and present facts to prevent conflicts between the two countries.

Mr. Surin, who heads the Thai delegation to Laos, says Thailand and Laos presently maintain cordial relations and good understanding as never enjoyed before in recent history.

Foreign Minister Views Lao Bridge Deadlock

BK2612013293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Dec 93 p 2

[By Rita Phatiyasewi in Nong Khai]

[Text] Laos is to be asked to set aside the problem of division and jurisdiction of the Thai-Lao Mittraphap [Friendship] Bridge and concentrate on the more urgent matter of administering and maintaining it.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday he would put this suggestion to his Laotian counterpart

Somsavat Lengsavat at a meeting in Bangkok early next year. The "friendship" bridge is to open on April 8.

"The meeting will focus on temporary measures to facilitate the operation of the bridge, sidelining the pending question of boundary and jurisdiction," Prasong said. The Foreign Minister was in Nong Khai for the taping of a TV programme Mong Tang Mum ("Looking from Different Perspectives").

Somsavat has accepted Prasong's invitation to a meeting sent through Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan who was in Vientiane last week for boundary talks.

Somsavat told THE NATION in Vientiane that he wanted to meet Prasong to discuss the legal aspects and other problems which may arise when the bridge is opened.

Prasong said that if Laos agrees to his proposal a Memorandum of Understanding can be signed on measures to administer and maintain the bridge, but it will not include the divisive question of the boundary line and jurisdiction.

At the same time, Prasong said, talks would continue to try to settle outstanding issues. Both sides would also study similar bridges overseas and the ways dividing lines have been established and adapt the ideas for the Thai-Lao bridge.

Prasong admitted the question would not be resolved in time for the opening of the bridge as it requires debate in Parliament to change Thai law.

He said Bangkok and Vientiane have reached an understanding that the deepest part of the Mekong River would continue to be the boundary line between the two countries and would not be affected by the division of the bridge.

Thai officials, however, insist that because the Thai Constitution stipulates that the jurisdiction and boundary lines are the same, the bridge should be divided at the deepest point of the river.

This position had stonewalled negotiations between officials as Laos had insisted that the division should occur at the bridge's mid-point. Laotian officials argued that this would make it easier to administer and maintain as well as to ensure equal jurisdiction, although neither side would recognize the middle as the boundary line.

At a previous meeting, Prasong and Somsavat agreed that the highest point of the bridge should mark the division line but that it would not be recognized as the boundary line.

Prasong, meanwhile, said there should be discussions on easing two-way entry across the bridge for Laotians and Thais who are not residents of Nong Khai and Vientiane provinces. He said both countries expect people who are from other provinces to use the bridge because of the convenience.

Only Thais and Laotians who live in provinces adjoining the bridge have access are entitled to special border passes.

Chuan, Goh Discuss APEC, Burma

BK2712150393 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] The relationship between Singapore and Thailand has graduated from one that is cordial and formal to that of a partnership. That is the assessment of Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchanphak following talks today between Mr. Goh Chok Tong and his Thai counterpart Mr. Chuan Likphai. Mr. Goh is in Bangkok on a two-day working visit.

Mr. Suphachai told Singapore journalists the mood today is relaxed and informal. The two leaders agreed on several matters. One was to speed up the formation of a Thai-Singapore business council. The other, Mr. Chuan suggested that Singapore be invited as an observer to the next meeting between Thailand, China, Laos, and Myanmar [Burma] to discuss sub-regional project.

Press secretary to Mr. Goh, Chan Heng Meng, said the prime minister had earlier raised the possibility for a joint industrial project in both countries. He suggested a council be formed for private sector business interests to explore such investment opportunities with the encouragement of the governments. The two leaders also exchanged views on the recently-concluded APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] conference in Seattle. They agreed APEC represents an important step forward for the Asia Pacific. It places Asia high on the agenda of the U.S.

The two prime ministers want ASEAN to begin exploring ideas for discussion for the next APEC leaders meeting in Indonesia. Also discussed today was the speeding up of the 15-year time frame for the ASEAN Free Trade Area, AFTA. The two leaders will emphasize this need to the ASEAN Secretariat. They also suggested a study on how linkages can be formed between AFTA and the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA. They thought the groupings should talk to each other and exchange views.

Mr. Goh today also held talks with Thai Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon and former prime minister Anan Panyarachun. The prime minister will return to Singapore tomorrow.

APEC Role, GATT Impact

BK2712143593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] The international cooperation forum is becoming more and more important. The Thai and Singapore Governments have agreed to cooperate to support the grouping of countries for political, economic, and social gain. The Thai and Singapore prime ministers, during talks at Government House today, held broad discussions on cooperation under the framework of APEC

[Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] and GATT. They also agreed on a joint effort to push for an early realization of the ASEAN Free Trade Area, or AFTA.

The following is a report by Aphisit Wetchachiwa, spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office, on the outcome of the meeting:

[Begin Aphisit recording] The two leaders agreed that APEC will become very important in the future as a framework for cooperation and a forum for exchanging views among leaders. APEC will serve as a forum for leaders of countries such as the United States, Japan, and China to meet. They could have difficulty arranging talks at the bilateral level and so forth, but meetings among these leaders will be possible under the APEC framework. This will play a very significant role in Asia and the Pacific.

Similarly, the just-concluded Uruguay round of trade talks was successful to a certain extent. This will create confidence among countries that international trade will henceforth be free and governed by rules and regulations enforced by all countries. Anyway, the GATT trade talks do not pose an obstacle to any regional grouping or form of cooperation. This can be seen from what is happening in the European Community, North America, and even ASEAN.

The two leaders exchanged views today on a wide range of issues. They stressed the need for ASEAN to be prepared; to observe changes and be prepared to benefit from those changes in the best possible way, whether it is under the framework of the Uruguay round or APEC trade talks. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Burma Ties

BK2712144693 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Surin Phitsuwan said he is confident that the efforts to solve Thai-Burma border problems in terms of security and the economy will not meet with any obstacles. However, it will take time to get things done. The delay in drawing the demarcation line between the two countries has been attributed to the shortage of Burmese technical officials. More important, Burma wants to complete the demarcation of its border with China first.

Touching on the encroachment on Thai territory on Lam, Kham, and Khinok islands as reported in November, the deputy foreign minister said the problem has been solved. The Burmese side has admitted that its citizens had unknowingly settled on the islands. The situation in those areas has improved.

The deputy foreign minister also told reporters that the Thai Government has been keeping close contact with the Burmese Government in fishery cooperation. Particularly, the Agriculture and Cooperation Ministry has invited the Burmese fishery minister to Bangkok to discuss the issue.

Vietnam

Science Agreement Signed With Malaysia

BK2512032193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] To strengthen and broaden the SRV-Malaysia cooperation and friendship relations, Comrade Dang Huu, minister of science, technology, and environment, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government; and His Excellency Cheah Sam Kip, Malaysian ambassador to Vietnam, on behalf of the Malaysian Government, recently signed an agreement in Hanoi for cooperation in science, technology, and environment.

According to the agreement, the two sides will cooperate in science and technology in the fields of electronics, biotechnology, standardization, environment, wildlife management, ocean resources, scientific and technological information and training, meteorology, agriculture, and so forth.

Relations With Japan Said on Upswing

BK2412071993 Hanoi VNA in English 0639 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec.24—"The Vietnamese people are glad at the improvement in Vietnam-Japan relations, a forerunner to a period of better development in the bilateral relations. The trade value between the two countries was 1.39 billion USD in 1993'.

This was reported in an article in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN on December 23 on the occasion of the national day of Japan (Dec.23).

The article goes on : 'Over the past 20 years, since the establishment of the diplomatic ties between the two countries in September 1973, relations have been up and down, and faced with many difficulties. Following the Japanese Government's decision to open development aid (DA) to Vietnam in late 1992, bilateral relations have entered into a new stage. During Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit to Japan, the two governments reaffirmed agreements to broaden the relations of economic and technological cooperation between the two countries. In addition, a month-long cultural exchange was held in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to help the Vietnamese people further understand the land and people of Japan. And on a commercial level, Japanese industrial and financial companies now have substantial investments in Vietnam, and Japan has become a major buyer of Vietnamese goods.

With these results recorded, Vietnam-Japan relations can only go forward in 1994 and coming years.'

Apart from the Vietnam-Japan relations, the article praises the rapid economic development in Japan. It says that in 1993 Japan achieved a GDP value of roughly USD 3,000 billion.

On foreign policy, the article notes that Japan would strengthen the relations of friendship with all countries and cooperate with ASEAN and Southeast Asian countries, contributing to the reestablishment of peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia.

Radio Reviews 1993 Industrial Achievements

BK2412063793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded in Vietnamese, fading into English translation]

[Excerpts] The year 1993 is the third year in a row Vietnam has changed its basic economic policy. And 1993, once again, affirms the correctness of Vietnam's open-door policy. In this year-end report, we review major achievements attained in industrial production: [passage omitted]

Crude oil export in 1993 reached 6.5 million tons or one million over 1992. Steel of different sorts reached almost 22,000 tons, the highest ever. Cement reached 4.5 million tons or 70,000 tons for than 1992. Electricity reached 10.5 billion kilowatt-hour, an increase of 850,000 kilowatt-hour against 1992. The supply of electricity to the north has met consumption demand while that of the south is reported to be improving. [passage omitted]

Where are the reasons leading to the achievements of Vietnamese industry?. Here, Mr. Nguyen Van Hao, general manager of the Mekong Limited Company:

[Nguyen Van Hao] "These achievements must be (?accredited) to the changes in mechanism and policies of the party and state. These changes have encouraged business enterprises to develop their own individual ability, and at the same time, create conditions for them to make contacts with different economic sector inside and outside Vietnam to seek cooperation opportunities." [passage omitted]

Dao Manh Nhuong, deputy head of Vietnam Civil Aviation Department said: "'In 1993, Vietnam Airlines, for the first time, carried over 1.1 million passengers, of which 40 percent were flying on international routes and also carried 50 million tons of cargo. Vietnam Airlines has a target in 1994 of carrying 1.4 million passengers and opening more air routes to Western countries. It wants to establish an air route to the United States, once the two countries normalize relations.'" [passage omitted]

Doan Khue Article Discusses Defense

BK2312152593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Article by Senior General Doan Khue from December 1993 TAP CHI CONG SAN: "Thoroughly Aware of the

Universal National Defense Concept; Enhancing State Management Over National Defense"]

[Text] The Seventh National Party Congress platform points out that building socialism and defending the fatherland are the two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution. This is a basic course of action to ensure that our country attains the goal of building a prosperous people, a powerful country, and a civilized society.

Our entire party, people, and Army are doing their utmost to realize this course of action. They have achieved initial though very important successes, thus ushering in a new era of development for our people and nation. In reality, the implementation of the two strategic tasks shows that we must strive harder to make the people, party cadres and members, and combatants more thoroughly aware that consolidating national defense is a basic and permanent task of our people and state, as outlined in the platform. It is necessary to develop a new concept for the task of consolidating national defense that conforms with the changed historical conditions. We must be vigilant against dangers from different directions and domains, especially regarding the national construction task.

Building and consolidating national defense is usually considered a preparation for war. This concept is only partly correct. Building and consolidating a universal national defense is intended to keep us prepared for a people's war to defend the nation. It is also an urgent and essential task to be carried out immediately if we are to maintain stability and peace, which is a prerequisite for national construction and socioeconomic development. This means that, if we have a peace that is not well established—if there are still factors of instability that we cannot ignore—we must strive to take the initiative to build our forces and generate our military strength and national defense strength if we are to dispel the danger of an armed conflict and the danger of a war of aggression and maintain peace and stability in order to achieve constant and comprehensive national growth while effectively coping with all contingencies.

In building and consolidating national defense, we must be thoroughly aware of the new ideas regarding the concept of universal national defense. We must have a strong national defense, not only to defend our fatherland but also to protect our regime [words indistinct]; not only to achieve preparedness for a people's war to defend the nation but also to maintain and develop peace and stability.

The strength of the universal national defense is that it integrates our strengths in the task of building the country—building a prosperous people, a powerful country, and a civilized society toward the goal of a socialist society. Efforts to carry out security maintenance and a people's war for national defense and to consolidate national defense must be closely coordinated with other activities by the entire people and the state. Carrying out a people's war must be closely coordinated

with security maintenance if we are to ensure security and public order and safety; with economic construction if we are to achieve economic growth and a powerful national defense; with diplomatic activities if we are to create a peaceful environment and achieve international cooperation for national construction and defense; and with cultural, scientific, and technological activities if we are to create a comprehensive potential for the country and meet national defense requirements.

The task of firmly defending the fatherland and the regime requires us to rely on socialist reform to build a universal national defense policy of independence, sovereignty, self-support, and self-reliance in pursuing the goal of constant modernization. To build such a national defense, we should choose objectives to be achieved in such a way as to suit the capability of the economy and the comprehensive potential of the country. We should make full use of those lessons of experience accumulated by our Army and people over the past nearly half a century on building the armed forces and carrying out a patriotic war. Our entire Army should develop its existing experiences, and develop these experiences under new circumstances. We should rely mainly on the renovation process to apply those experiences obtained in economic development, national construction, and national development promptly and as a whole in building the universal national defense.

We should promptly use those experiences obtained in the renovation process in building and consolidating national defense. For example, experiences in training and educating people can be used to train talent for national defense; new experiences in national industrialization and modernization, posts and telecommunications, communications and transportation, and science and technology can be promptly applied to building material-technical bases [words indistinct].

As an immediate task, we should concentrate on satisfactorily instilling a sense of national defense in the entire people. (?Attention) should be paid to improving their sense of responsibility and obligation and their necessary behavior. In particular, we should educate the contingent of party and government cadres on national defense in a situation where a comprehensive renovation is being carried out.

Thoroughly aware of the universal national defense, we should strengthen state management over national defense. [Words indistinct] we should establish an adequate, perfect, and well-grounded system of laws and by-laws on national defense. We should promptly draft a basic law on national defense and include this task in the National Assembly's legislative program so the National Assembly can promptly consider and make a decision on it. We must build and perfect the organization of our force so the state can effectively exercise its managerial functions [words indistinct].

Our party, state, and people should build an invincible Army. We will solemnly celebrate the 55th anniversary

of our revolutionary Army in December 1994. It is certain that our Army and people will be able to build a modern and universal national defense and develop the people's armed forces into a regular, elite, and gradually modernizing revolutionary army to defend firmly our national independence and socialism.

Buddhist Clergyman Supports Unity Policy

BK2412111493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Statement by Thich Tri Quang, vice chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City Buddhist Church Standing Committee and chairman of the Vietnam Buddhist Church Central Committee for the Execution of the Dharma on "the Political Bureau resolution on achieving great national unity and revamping the National United Front"; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Vietnam Buddhist Church and all other Vietnamese mass organizations are components of the Vietnam Fatherland Front. As for such an important resolution calling for achieving great national unity and revamping the National United Front, which has been widely disseminated over the press and the radio, it is certain that attention has been given by various provincial, city, and district Buddhist churches throughout the country to providing guidance for the study of this resolution.

It is necessary to be more aware of the role and duty as citizens of Buddhist monks, nuns, and laymen in their bid to improve unity and cooperation and to join with all people in consolidating our integrated strength in the face of pressing universal problems so as to firmly defend our beloved and increasingly prosperous fatherland for the sake of national independence, freedom, and happiness. [passage omitted]

In modern society, the policy of achieving great national unity calls for uniting all people in the great family of multiethnic Vietnamese. We should jointly eradicate all our prejudices, inferiority complexes, and resentment and look toward the bright future of the nation for the sake of the people's happiness. This way is, in fact, very compatible with the notions of loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity glorified and practiced by Buddhism.

We should create genuine unity with all our heart. Great unity will lead to great success. This motto, which was left behind by President Ho, has brought about many successes for our country. This is a great, invaluable lesson of experience indeed.

In view of the existing renovation process, it is certain that there should be a plan to consolidate and expand the Vietnam Fatherland Front. This is a legitimate and urgent need. To create integrated strength for our country and people, we cannot fail to strengthen the alliance of voluntary forces from various social strata, ethnic groups, and religious faiths. Only by promoting

democratic consultations, genuine unity, equal cooperation, mutual respect, an appropriate sense of cooperation, respect for the common goals, clear-cut concepts, close-knit principles, and singlemindedness can we ensure the fulfillment of our functions and tasks arising from the campaign to strengthen the front committees at various levels. [passage omitted]

VNA Reports on Catholics Celebrating Christmas

BK2412152393 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 24—Large crowds of Catholics and non-Catholics in different localities this evening celebrated Christmas and pray for peace and prosperity. Hanoi cathedral and parish churches were brightly decorated to greet the birthday of Lord Jesus. The fatherland front delegations at commune and district levels visited many Catholics families and priests with good records in national construction and defence. On this occasion, Vu Manh Kha, vice-chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee, and representatives of the Commission for Religious Affairs warmly received representatives of the Hanoi Protestant Church and the Catholic Church. Christmas was merrily celebrated by 500,000 Catholic believers in the Red River Delta province of Nam Ha, the largest Catholic community in north Vietnam. Thousands of Catholics in Ninh Binh Province celebrated Christmas at church which was brightly decorated.

National Assembly Communique on Bankruptcy

BK2312160193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Communique No. 11 issued by the Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session in Hanoi on 23 December]

[Excerpts] The National Assembly held a plenary session at the conference hall on 23 December 1993.

During the morning session, which was directed by National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu, the National Assembly continued its debate on the draft Law on Business Bankruptcy. [passage omitted]

In two days of debate, those National Assembly deputies who spoke emphasized the importance and necessity of promulgating the Law on Business Bankruptcy. There were still many differing views on some important issues regarding the draft law. The National Assembly assigned the meeting presidium and responsible organs the task of studying the deputies' views and rectifying the draft law before presenting it to the National Assembly for continued consideration. [passage omitted]

Assembly Deputies Discuss Draft Labor Code

BK2412140393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: Today, National Assembly deputies held group debates over the contents of the draft labor code.

Most of the deputies who spoke believed that the state should promptly promulgate the labor code, especially at a time when there is a need to protect workers' rights under the multicomponent market-oriented economic system.

Some deputies said: In a number of joint ventures with foreign countries, there have been cases where enterprise owners laid off Vietnamese workers at will and without protest. This is because we do not have a labor code to protect the legal rights of workers.

The Thanh Hoa Province deputy said: "The labor code must protect the interests of both the employees and the employers and must stipulate that the purpose of trade union activities is to protect workers' rights."

Other deputies also discussed the employment situation at various state-owned production establishments, saying that when the state subsidy system was still in place, many untrained workers were recruited by the state. However, they are now a burden for these establishments. Meanwhile, there are a surplus of young, able-bodied workers in society. Therefore, the promulgation of a labor code will create conditions for production units to recruit workers in a more rational and effective fashion.

Phu Yen Province Deputy Tran Thi Minh Chanh expressed her views on the policy toward female workers as outlined in the draft labor code, saying:

"I think the stipulation in the draft labor code that female workers are entitled to four to six months maternity leave after giving birth is practical. However, we should come up with a policy to encourage employers to use female workers."

Deputies from Kien Giang and Minh Hai provinces asked for a clause on the role of trade unions in protecting the rights of workers, especially those working in joint ventures with foreign countries, be added to Articles 56, 57, and 58 of the draft labor code.

Kien Giang Province Deputy Viet Nhan said: "I suggest that in Article 149, we should clearly note that the duty of trade unions is to represent workers when it comes to protecting their rights and that employers are dutybound to closely cooperate with and create favorable conditions for the activities of relevant trade unions."

Deputies from Thanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan, and Binh Thuan provinces rejected the idea of reducing the working age to 15. Others called for fixing the retirement age at between 55 and 60 for male workers and between 50 and 55 for female workers. They also asked that employers contribute 15-20 percent of workers' salary funds to the state's social security fund.

Some Thanh Hoa Province deputies held that the labor code must clearly mention workers' right to go on strike because this will help workers to protect their own interests in accordance with the labor code, particularly for those working for joint ventures with foreign countries. Others also proposed that while on strike, strikers must continue to be paid by their employers.

The National Assembly will continue their group debates on the draft law on the state budget tomorrow.

Fear of Rice Shortages Causes Price Rise

BK2412084593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Dec 93

[Text] Over the past several days, rice prices in the northern provinces have increased unexpectedly and quickly. In Hanoi alone, the price of CR 203 rice has increased by 300-400 dong per kilo compared to last week and by 500-600 dong per kilo compared to mid-November. The main cause of these unexpected price increases was a psychological factor created by reports that the world rice market is going to be broadened, that many localities in central Vietnam have been affected by natural disasters, and that a serious cold spell has hit the northern provinces.

The current rice prices are reasonable for peasants. If they continue to rise, they will exert a direct impact on the lives of people who are not engaged in agricultural production. To stabilize current prices, there must be some intervention from the state, first of all from rice trading agencies, the National Grain Reserve Department, and banking and financial institutions.

Ninh Thuan Province Gets Extra Funds

BK2512043493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] On 21 December, after listening to a fact-finding report on natural disaster damage in Ninh Thuan Province, the prime minister decided:

The Finance Ministry is to provide a supplementary budget of 1.15 billion dong to Ninh Thuan Province. The Ministry of Communications and Transportation is to supply three steel bridge foundations of 600 million dong to repair damaged bridges. The Ministry of Water Conservancy is to grant 400 million dong to repair water projects in the province. The Ministry of Public Health is to supply 100 packages of medicine, 34 blocks of medical equipment, and 40 million dong for emergency medicine. The State Bank is to supervise the Ninh Thuan banks to postpone payment with no interest charged on agricultural production loans to peasants who have suffered typhoon damage and to provide them extra loans to restore the production. The heads of related departments and levels are to urgently create favorable conditions for the Ninh Thuan Province to quickly repair damages caused by Typhoon No. 11.

Deputy Premier Tran Duc Luong Meets Businessmen

BK2512043993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Dec 93

[Text] On 22 December in Hanoi, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong met with members of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Hanoi and northern provinces. After listening to a report evaluating this year's chamber activities, the businessmen expressed their opinions on policies regarding taxation, import and export, and business loans. They offered suggestions, corrections, and amendments to the government and other related agencies such as the Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Customs Service, and so forth to bring about further favorable conditions for business to develop in our market economy.

Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong highly evaluated the chamber's activities in the past in accelerating our national economy. He also welcomed the chamber's role in creating a more efficient connection between Vietnamese businessmen and their foreign counterparts in economic and commercial exchange.

Commission Notes Faults in Anticorruption Drive

BK2512100493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] The party Central Committee Inspection Commission convened a two-day conference from 21 to 22 December to sum up the results of a special drive to implement the Political Bureau's Directive 15 by 19 southern provinces and cities from Binh Thuan to Minh Hai.

Generally speaking, the above-mentioned provinces and cities have taken serious steps to implement the directive, formulating well-defined action programs. They have also set up anticorruption and antismuggling steering committees from the provincial down to the precinct and district levels, as well as in all departments, sectors, and economic units. As a result, certain results have been achieved.

The conference also pointed out that many provinces and cities still fail to understand and implement the Political Bureau's Directive 15 in a thorough and meticulous manner. In corruption and smuggling cases involving key cadres at all levels, only investigations have been made. Generally speaking, the pace of investigations and legal proceedings remains slow or drawn-out. Some cases have not yet been dealt with seriously. The majority of cases tried so far involve only low-level cadres or party members who do not hold important positions. Major corruption and smuggling cases are often shielded by influential officials, thus making it

difficult for law enforcement agencies to conduct investigations and take necessary action at an early date.

Major Projects for Completion in 1994 Noted

BK2712071993 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 27—Vietnam will complete several major economic projects next year, adding greatly to the development of Vietnam's infrastructure.

About USD 4 million will be spent for this purpose.

Most worthy of note is the completion of 500 kv [kilovolts] national transmission line, the biggest project to have been undertaken in the last decade of the 20th century in Vietnam.

The initial cost is estimated at about USD 260 million.

Work started on April 5, 1992 and is expected to complete the same day in 1994.

On completion, this line will each year transmit to southern provinces about 2-3 billion kwh [kilowatt-hours] by between 1994- 97, rising to 4-5 billion kwh by 1998-2000. It is also expected to supply 2 billion kwh/year for central Vietnam.

Another project of no less importance is the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant on the Da River. It is a major supplier to the line.

The plant's seventh turbine began its test run early this month.

Work has been accelerated for the installation of the last turbine which is hoped to be in place in the first quarter of 1994.

The plant at Hoa Binh has a design capacity of 1,920 mw [megawatts], the biggest power generation source in Vietnam.

The expressway linking Hanoi to Noi Bai International Airport is also scheduled to finish next year.

The 14-km road is designed to have six lanes and handle up to 8,000 vehicles a day, travelling at up to 120m per hour. The construction cost was initially estimated at 120 billion dong (roughly USD 12 million).

A test run for the first lane is scheduled this month.

The finishing touches will also be put to the building of many bridges in Viet Tri, Phong Chan, Nong Tien, Do Quang, Trang Tien, and so on.

Part of the sum will be spent on the development of rural transport, a water supply system and transport network in urban areas.

A large spending program will be put into the introduction of computing in schools and building new schools in order to avoid three-shift classrooms.

Australia**Cabinet Reshuffle Replaces Dawkins With Willis**

*BK2312053693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 23 Dec 93*

[Text] Australia's Governor General Bill Hayden has sworn in Prime Minister Paul Keating's new ministry. Mark Tamhane reports the reshuffle was prompted by last week's sudden resignation by the nation's chief economic minister, Treasurer John Dawkins.

[Begin Tamhane recording] As expected, the current finance minister, Ralph Willis, moves into the treasury portfolio. The prime minister says Mr. Willis has made an outstanding contribution to Labor governments over the past 10 years and has demonstrated his capacity. The current education minister, Kim Beazley, moves to finance, with his spot now to be filled by former union leader Simon Crean. Following a litany of disasters over the introduction of pay TV to Australia and botched negotiations over air treaties with China and the United States, Mr. Keating has moved to split the Department of Transport and Communications. The two ministers who operated in that portfolio area, Senator Bob Collins and David Beddall, have been shunted sideways to primary industries and resources respectively. The current industrial relations minister, Laurie Brereton, adds transport to his responsibilities while Tourism Minister Michael Lee picks up communications. Queensland MP [Member of Parliament] Gary Johns, who was elected to the ministry earlier this week, becomes assistant minister for industrial relations and will help the prime minister on public service matters. The minister for environment, sport, and territories, Ros Kelly, retains her spot, also becoming minister assisting the prime minister on the status of women. [end recording]

PLO Envoy Criticizes Nonrecognition of Palestine

*BK2412081893 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] The Australian representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, 'Ali al-Qazaq, has criticized the federal government's refusal to recognize a state of Palestine. The government has been urged to do so in a petition signed by 81 federal and state labor MP's, including several ministers.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says to offer recognition would be premature, adding no other Western government has taken such a step. Mr. al-Qazaq claims several countries such as Austria, Malta, the Philippines, and

Indonesia have recognized a state of Palestine and established full diplomatic relations with it.

Indonesians Charged With Aiding Illegal Immigration

*BK2412093893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0404 GMT
24 Dec 93*

[Text] Darwin, Dec 24 (AFP)—Three Indonesian men accused of illegally bringing four Turkish nationals to Australia in a fishing boat were remanded in custody in Darwin Magistrates Court Friday.

Skipper Mohammad Alimuddin, 22, Amir Hasan, 18, and Mas Putra Kaisoli, 19, all from the Indonesian island of Roti, were remanded in custody until January 5.

The accused men arrived off the Kimberley coast in Western Australia on Monday with four Turkish men aboard their boat, the Asria Jaya, the court heard.

The Turkish men are being held at a detention centre in Port Hedland, northwestern Australia, where they are being questioned by the Immigration Department.

The Indonesians have each been charged with two offences under the Migration Act: bringing an illegal entrant into Australia, and bringing a non-citizen to Australia in circumstances where it could reasonably be inferred the non-citizen intended to come secretly.

The skipper, Mohammad Alimuddin, has also been charged with two quarantine offences.

The three men were not required to enter a plea.

New Zealand**Mine Sweepers To Be Sent to Mozambique, Cambodia**

*BK2412075093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 24 Dec 93*

[Text] New Zealand has announced that it's sending mine-clearing experts to Mozambique and Cambodia. Six experts are to be sent to help train 15,000 local demining instructors in Mozambique and two army engineers are to work with Cambodia's mine action center for the next year. More than 100 New Zealand Defense Force personnel are currently serving in United Nations operations in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

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